

Let us see that our men going to the fisheries get a square deal so that we can live as a country should live.

[The Committee rose and reported progress.]

Mr. Chairman Gentlemen, I have to report to you that in pursuance of the plan adopted a couple of days ago at an informal session of the Convention, the following were elected to be members of the committee to interview His Excellency the Governor in Commission. These are the members of the committee:

Hon. R.B. Job

Mr. C.A. Crosbie

Mr. G.F. Higgins, K.C.

Mr. T.W. Ashbourne

Mr. J.R. Smallwood

Mr. I. Newell

Mr. F.T. Fogwill

It is necessary that we have a motion formally to confirm this election. I will accept a motion now from any member of the Convention confirming the appointment of these gentlemen.

[The motion was put and carried, and the Convention adjourned]

February 10, 1947

Report of the Local Industries Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickman I think perhaps it might be best if the Secretary would finish reading the report, and we could then take it all and debate it....

[The Secretary read the second part of the report, and Mr. Hickman answered a number of questions]

Mr. Smallwood Let us consider the appendix compiled by the Industrial Development Board, which strikes me as a constructive report. They seem to have the same idea I have — to use up the raw materials we have here in the country rather than import. I do not think sealskins are mentioned, but that is an important item. They are exported raw. Why are they not manufactured here? Then the birch. What possibilities are there for manufacturing that here? Then, limestone. It seems from this report that limestone is subsidised in Canada. To encourage agriculture, the government subsidises limestone to make it cheaper for farmers. Fish offal — perhaps Mr. Crosbie can tell us something about that. I was into a place in Labrador where there was machinery for turning fish guts, sound bones, and heads into fish meal. Then we come to seaweed. What do we find? "Processing firms in the USA when contacted re the establishment of branch plants in this country immediately asked for data on the quantities of the various species of seaweed available. This information, unfortunately, has never been compiled." Why not? They make blancmange out of seaweed. Blancmange is the usual Sunday dessert in Newfoundland; and here we are importing

blancmange. Then wallboard. If they can make wallboard out of sawdust, why can't we put up a place to make wallboard?

Mr. Hickman They are doing experimental work on that now.

Mr. Smallwood I know the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co. have been experimenting with it. We have the raw materials for all those things. I know of one local factory in St. John's — it is true they are importing raw material — they are milking that factory to put the profits into another industry of the country. I like that very much.... I hope Mr. Job will tell us about sealskins and Mr. Crosbie about fish offal.

Mr. Job I take this opportunity of making a few remarks about Mr. Smallwood's ideas in regard to different industries. I am in accord with some of his ideas but I am not in accord with the drastic way in which he thinks local industries should be dealt with. Any local industry must have a small amount of protection and the most important thing about local industries is the employment. There are 3-4,000 men employed in local industries, what would be the position if they were out of employment now? It is serious. I think it is helpful to the country generally. The other point is the enormous government revenue from those industries. I do not know how much. I do say that if any industry is receiving excessive protection, it should be remedied. Now, with regard to sealskins. The answer is simple. It has been tried on various occasions. The main trouble is foreign tariffs. Our sealskins go into the United States

¹Volume II:154.