

**Mr. Job** I think I sat down a little too quickly, before I had a chance to congratulate the Committee on their report, because they have taken a tremendous amount of trouble and done an enormous amount of work. The Railway is a great asset to the country, and I always think that one of the great assets on our Railway is the personnel. I don't know any place (although I have done a lot of travelling) where they make people as much at home as on our railway, and I think it is due to the courtesy of the officials from top to bottom. I have heard that same expression from people outside the country who have travelled on the railway. They seem to get a more personal touch, and it is an asset with a view to our possible future tourist policy.

**Mr. Smallwood** It's our natural Newfoundland courtesy, I think. We have all got it, but it only shows up when we are in contact with outsiders. When we are alone, God only knows what we will say to each other, but to outsiders we are a very charming and polite people.

**Mr. Bailey** I think it will be found that in all parts of the world outside ships in foreign shipyards pay no duty.... A man who goes to sea, once he is outside the three mile limit does not pay any duty, but when he is in port he pays duty. That has been something that has grown up throughout maritime history.... I took the question up with Mr. Russell, and he says it is impossible for us to compete with the docks in New York and other large docks throughout the world, so I don't think we can censure the government for doing what is an old custom.... We are not in a position, and very few countries in the world are in the position, to compete with the United States. Ships come from all parts of the world to be dry-docked in the United States. If we were in a position to have more ships come here, there would be more surplus for the docks. But we went into it extensively with Mr. Russell and apparently we are not able to compete with the large docks in the world. The only thing we get here is an emergency job or a local job.

**Mr. Vardy** I feel the most serious aspect of this matter is the fact that by us paying duty on our local jobs, and foreign ships getting that duty free, it prevents our local ships from competing. The whole answer is that Newfoundlanders usually treat outsiders better than their own. Early in 1940 I was in Oakland, California, with

the old *Queen of the Pacific*, and there was never any question of getting a rebate on any of the plating we used at the dry dock, and I don't think any Newfoundland ship could go to any dock in the world and get a rebate of duty. Usually any foreigners coming to Newfoundland get these special concessions, and I don't believe they are entitled to it. I never heard of a boat coming to Newfoundland because of the special concessions, they only come to Newfoundland because they are forced here because of weather conditions, or because they become disabled....

**Mr. Reddy** I would feel remiss if I let this occasion pass without deploring the awful conditions of first class travel on the *Home* in Placentia Bay. Time and time again she has left Placentia with 120 passengers — sleeping on deck, and in lifeboats, and every conceivable part of the ship, food in a deplorable condition, almost beyond description. The Railway is at last going to replace the *Home* with a new boat, and this very good news. If the railway is in such a deplorable condition due to the war, I think, as Mr. Miller suggested, that we should ask those foreign powers which militarily used Newfoundland for some compensation to help us out in making our railway a better service to our country.

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Chairman, if there are no other comments it is getting up around the time to adjourn. This completes all we have of our report, but, as the House knows, we have asked Mr. Neill to appear before the Convention and give us further information on Gander, and it may consequently be necessary to bring in a supplementary report on Gander....

**Mr. Hillier** Since Mr. Reddy has raised the point of deplorable conditions on the *Home*, I would like to say that I agree with him. The ship's company have given their best to make the passengers comfortable as far as possible. It is a deplorable state of affairs not to have better accommodations, but I can't see how it can be avoided at the present time. I know I have felt bad to have to walk down and say, "We can't take any more, we have no room for them." It is very uncomfortable for women and children lying around on the seats and chairs, etc. I do really hope that it will be better, not only in that connection, but by the time we finish our work here maybe you will see a ray of sunshine which at the present time is not apparent.