

they are not properly paid for that kind of work. No figures occur here, and I am not able to give all the figures, but I know one case where a carrier had to go over 175 miles by dog team and he got \$20 a trip. I feel that when a department is able to show a surplus, and we are able to give instances such as this, there is something wrong somewhere. Why not put some of this surplus into paying better wages and giving better service?....

**Mr. Fudge** The Committee made no reference to the recent contract for mail bags supplied to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs by, I understand, a Canadian firm. According to rumours this contract was valued at \$75,000. I think we should find out the facts about this rumour. If it is correct, then why are local sailmakers here in the city of St. John's left out?....

**Mr. Smallwood** ....It may be that in Canada they turn out these mailbags by the millions, and they can be imported at very great savings. I don't know, but unless it is a very considerable saving, I don't see why the order could not be placed with a local sailmaker. But I do know that as far back as I can remember the mailbags have been imported. I remember there was a terrific uproar, 10 or 15 or maybe 18 years ago, when it was learned that the mailbags, hampers, etc., had been made by prison labour in Canada or the States.... I am not protectionist by any means, but in a matter like this the whole thing is relatively small, and the difference on \$75,000 is not going to be so wonderfully great....

**Mr. Fudge** ....I am at a loss to know why you did not mention that in the report.

**Mr. Smallwood** The members of the Committee did not consider it to be their duty to go into relatively small details. We are dealing with a department that deals with \$1.5 million a year.

**Mr. Fudge** \$75,000 is not a small detail.

**Mr. Smallwood** ....Anyway, to be quite frank the Committee did not take it up. The report of the Committee was mimeographed and tabled in this House before the matter came up at all. As a matter of fact it was brought up by me personally. I would like to see the matter settled.

**Mr. Reddy** If a local company is able to do the work I don't think it should be sent to Canada. I wish to concur with the previous speakers about the low salaries of the employees in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. I think there are some local phone offices where the person

employed does not get any salary at all. That's a shade worse. I go on record as protesting against those low salaries.

**Mr. Bailey** I hardly know where to begin in this thing here. I was not aware of the fact that mailbags are being imported from Canada, or else I certainly would have dug into it. I believe one time in this country mailbags were made in our own penitentiary. I don't think those things should be allowed whatever the saving. That is not what I got to my feet to speak about, however.

I want to stand alongside Rev. Mr. Burry in the matter of the service given to the country. I believe, in fact I am sure, that never in our history has this country had the equipment that was fit for the country that we are in, that could save lives and give us service.... If we had a government that had been removed a little from the ox-cart age, this was a time when we could have got flying boats that could have handled our mail system on the Labrador in a matter of hours, and boats that would be on hand in case of sickness in any part of the island where a case wanted to be rushed to the hospital ... and when there is ice we could have amphibian planes. I did not intend to bring this up until the matter of health and welfare came in. Somebody would say it is a big expense, but it is not as big an expense as a cottage hospital, and we could save lives.... I believe that when the war was over and those flying boats that I spoke about were scrapped ... we could have had two or three of those for practically nothing, and amongst our airforce boys we had plenty of good pilots. The Labrador could have been looked after, whereas now it takes six to eight months to get a letter, and I know what that means. There is not much that we can say today except to draw their attention to it.... There is plenty of work for 50 of these flying boats, mail, freight, and mercy trips, and in places where men have to be moved from one part of the island to another, I think those boats would pay without any cost to the country. I believe in this way our posts and telegraphs service could be extended, and that our hospitals could be extended and brought to the doors of the people....

**Mr. Newell** Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that a discussion of this report would be utterly incomplete if we allowed it to pass from our hands without making some attempt to correlate the various sections of the report. Perhaps self-