

officer likes him he may give him something, if he does not, he will not. There is a special case I know in Flowers Cove where a man had a large family and had to take dole. The result was he had to come to the Lakeside.<sup>1</sup> Another man had to travel 20 odd miles to get the dole and he went out of this world before he was sent for.

**Mr. Ashbourne** If Mr. Fudge will refer to page 18, he will see the number on Relief and costs per district for 1946. It says there sick people in the Humber district — 204 — which at \$5 would be \$1,020. The amount given is \$1,070.00. I presume there were five \$10 orders given in addition to the \$5.

**Mr. Smallwood** I must have been napping. On page 2 there is a little table that ought to be read out. It starts in 1934. If I remember, that is the year the investigation starts with, the changes that have taken place in Newfoundland since 1934. The reason 1934 is given is because that is the year the Commission of Government came here. This shows from 1934-39, the number of people in Newfoundland on relief — March, 1937, 80,000; 1938, 45,000; March 1939, 67,000. It seems to me these ought to be read out. Up to the outbreak of war we were still on the dole.

**Mr. Bailey** I do not think anybody in the country is going to forget it.

**Mr. Smallwood** I find a lot of people who do forget it. Thousands of people think that before the Commission of Government came the country was on the dole. I know a lot of people who will tell you honestly that dole came here before Commission and that since Commission, everything has been prosperous. But these figures that the Commission gave us do not show that. They show us they had tens of thousands on the dole up to the day the war broke out; it did not disappear, it went right on. When the war broke out they increased it; we were giving them a lot more money — our money.

**Mr. Fudge** I notice in this report that in 1934 the outport people were receiving \$1.80 per month relief. In the city of St. John's they received \$6 per month.

**Mr. Bailey** On page 5, 1935 — \$2, what does that mean?

**Mr. Ashbourne** That was given per person for relief, as against \$5 in 1946. It is \$5 now.

**Mr. Bailey** 1935-39 a lot of people did not get

that.

**Mr. Starkes** In the outports, 1931-34, a person on relief received \$1.80 per month; at St. John's they received \$6 per month plus free house rent and free medical attendance.

**Mr. Smallwood** They had to work for their coal in the city.

**Mr. Hollett** At what?

**Mr. Smallwood** Snow shovelling and so on.

**Mr. Bailey** I cannot see why those figures are here; they are not true. I was in contact with the relieving officer and he told me there was nothing given above \$1.80 a month — that was before 1939.

**Mr. Cashin** They gave them 20 cents extra — they made it \$2 instead of \$1.80.

**Mr. Miller** Twenty cents a month was worth more then than it is today.

**Mr. Fowler** It is significant that 1933-34, prior to the war, the cost of government relief was \$1.5 million. Now this year, 1946-47, immediately after hostilities, you see the amount spent on relief is practically the same \$1.1 million. I would like to ask, is it a fact that in the outports every person gets \$5 a head for relief? For instance, if a woman and child is left and her husband is incapacitated, do they get \$5 each per month?

**Mr. Ashbourne** That is the rate, as I understand it.

**Mr. Fowler** If that wife and child should be incapacitated, do they get an extra \$10?

**Mr. Ashbourne** Only under special orders — either from a doctor or relieving officer.

**Mr. Fowler** I have a special case in mind, where a man is in hospital, expecting to be there ten or 12 months. He has a wife and child of two or three months; no income to depend on. What, in your opinion, should that family receive? The figures look encouraging, but when you get down to brass tacks, those figures do not work out. I agree with Mr. Fudge when he said anyone not receiving what they are entitled to should wire him. It is all right to publish figures and say that the wife and the child gets \$5 each and \$10 for special orders, they sound fine and look fine on paper; but when you come to see them in cold reality, I can tell you it is not a bit as encouraging as it is here. I think everyone in that condition should make representation to someone in authority. I know people who are not getting anything near

<sup>1</sup>Probably a reference to the penitentiary in St. John's.