

Honourable Mr. Wild came here in 1934 and occupied the important position of Comptroller and Auditor General until 1938, and in 1941 he returned and since that time has been the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Customs. Having been here for nine years Mr. Wild will soon be relinquishing his commission and returning very shortly to the old country, so it gives me much pleasure to move a resolution to this House this afternoon ... that the Honourable Commissioner for Finance be invited to address the committee of the whole Convention tomorrow, September 18, at 4 pm on the general financial position of Newfoundland.

Mr. Vardy I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Chairman Convention ready for the question?

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman there were many questions put on the paper yesterday relative to Mr. Wild, and, whilst I am anxious that he come and address this Convention, I feel that when he comes he should be prepared to give all the information that has been requested of him. I understand that he is going away shortly, and I request that if Mr. Wild has not got all that information ready that he be asked to postpone his address for a couple of days until such time as he has a great deal of that information ready. There are many questions I would like to ask Mr. Wild and I would like to have the information and further explanation on it. But I don't think you could have it tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman On receiving an intimation from the committee which I met yesterday afternoon that it would be desirable, in the opinion of the members, that Mr. Wild be invited to address the committee of the whole in private, I saw him, and he asked me to inform you that he is very happy to do so at whatever time is suitable, and not alone tomorrow, but thereafter for as many days as he can find it possible to come.

Mr. Bradley Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the point made by Major Cashin, but another thought occurs to me: many of us are not so well acquainted with financial matters as Major Cashin, and the sooner we can get some light the better. If Commissioner Wild can come tomorrow I believe he would have to speak to us for at least an hour, and there won't be much time for Major Cashin to ask many questions, and in the meantime we can get some information. It might

facilitate Major Cashin's ideas if the commissioner would come tomorrow, with the understanding that he will come again on some subsequent day.

Mr. Cashin I know from my own experience that a lot of the information I have requested is going to take several days to prepare, and I don't want him to be inconvenienced, and when he comes he should make a good job of it. Any member is entitled to ask questions and I know he can't get it ready before the end of the week.

Mr. Chairman Would that be convenient to you?

Mr. Cashin Oh, anything is agreeable to me.

Mr. Chairman Well then —

Mr. Cashin Will he come the second time?

Mr. Chairman Not alone is he prepared to come tomorrow, but on other occasions.

Mr. Cashin I want it understood that if he is not prepared to come back the second time, particularly when they don't want to come before the public, the people here are entitled to every bit of information. The position the Commission has taken, is that they refuse to come before the public. Now on questions in the past I have gone through the ropes myself. When a question was directed towards a minister, the minister brought in a reply to that question, and if the answer did not suit the inquisitor, he questioned him further there on the floor of the House. I realise we have no right to subpoena people, but this is a different question. We are here to represent the people and they say, "we will only go up there privately"; and if we get information from them privately, the press, for instance, cannot give it to the public. Now how are we to get it to the public? Are we to give it out as a kind of rumour? I contend that whilst we have no power to drag them here, every member of the Commission should come before the Convention publicly. It creates more confidence for themselves, because when the people find out that they won't come publicly they feel, "Well, what has he to hide?" However, they have indicated they are not prepared to do that, so the next best thing is to get them before a committee of the Convention, but when that time arrives the questions, particularly these financial questions, have got to be answered properly. There is nothing in it that is not in the public interest, and no excuses will be taken by me for any refusal to answer these questions.... However, Mr. Wild