

it was just to bring it to the attention of the Convention, because I understand that there is a difficulty in the minds of some people as to what we can afford to pay, particularly for Labrador fish, and probably other fish as well, until this decision has been made by the government as regards to the rate at which the proceeds is to be converted into the Canadian currency.

**Mr. Chairman** Before you resume your seat, Mr. Ashbourne, I presume it is a fair inference that the situation to which you refer is of a recurring nature since our ability to carry it into effect would naturally depend upon whatever surpluses we have. I take it that it is your opinion that this might have a bearing upon the deliberations of the Committee in determining our future economic potentialities, or in other words our ability to remain self-supporting in the future.

**Mr. Ashbourne** Quite so, sir, because as I understand it, the monies that we receive from the exports of our products will reflect our ability to pay taxes and to provide the revenue that's necessary for the carrying on of government as required in this day and generation.

**Mr. MacDonald** May I ask a question of you, Mr. Chairman? Some time ago, around Easter I believe it was, there were some committees appointed to work during the recess, to consolidate the different committee reports. These committees were appointed in very unofficial gatherings, private sessions; it never came before the Convention officially; they were appointed officially but not in the Convention. Might I ask, Mr. Chairman, in view of this Committee that's now taking up the economic question, if they are aware of that fact? Are they in possession of these documents, which were supposedly condensed from the full reports that came in? Were they consolidated or not, and just what became of these reports?....

**Mr. Chairman** I think I ought to answer this way, to the best of my ability, belief and knowledge. That is, the work of the Committee will be to co-ordinate and collate any reports that have thus far been tabled, and have a bearing upon the economic question. It was felt by the Steering Committee that the Finance Committee, by virtue of their experience and excursions into finance, would perhaps be best qualified to deal with the broader question of economics.... I'm quite satisfied, I'm quite satisfied that they've

taken everything into account, and will take everything into account, and I feel that we can reasonably expect that a pretty thorough job will be done by them. Does that satisfy you Mr. MacDonald?

**Mr. MacDonald** Mr. Chairman, I think you've taken me wrongly on this matter. I had no desire whatever to take the Economic Report out of the hands of the Finance Committee....

**Mr. Chairman** I appreciate that, Mr. MacDonald.

**Mr. MacDonald** I don't want to be understood wrongly on this matter. But there were committees formed to do certain work which would help out this committee.

**Mr. Chairman** Yes, Mr. MacDonald.

**Mr. MacDonald** Their duty was to take these volumes of reports on transportation, forestry, education and so on, and condense these reports so that they will be more understandable to the Convention. I think the word used was consolidate. Well, to consolidate them you'd have to get all the reports together and put them all into one. For Mr. Cashin's information as chairman for the Finance Committee, I wanted to remind him in case he forgot this, because those papers will undoubtedly be of great use to him in bringing in his Economic Report....

**Mr. Chairman** The documents to which you refer, I'm reminded, are already in Captain Warren's office and you can rest assured that your fears are unjustified and that your views will be taken into account.

**Mr. Penney** Mr. MacDonald has something there about the reports. If I remember correctly, when the delegation went to England we were given the choice to go to our homes at our own expense, or work here in this building recapitulating the reports. I took advantage of the offer to go home at my own expense. But I think most of the delegates stayed here in St. John's and worked on the reports. I never have heard if they had the reports recapitulated or not. But it would be very useful if there was a report in that way for the Finance Committee.

**Mr. Vardy** These committees functioned, the reports were condensed, and they're in the hands of the Secretary of the Convention, or in the hands of the chairmen of the sub-committees. The whole of these committees did their work and the reports are ready, and if they can be of