

on solid facts. That is why we sent this delegation to London. We wanted to know just where we stood with the old country. Did they really mean it when they told us that we could vote for any form of government we liked? They told the delegation that we could vote for any form of government we liked. We wanted to know where we would stand if we voted for responsible government. They told the delegation that if we voted for responsible government we would be on our own so far as Britain is concerned. We wanted to know where we would stand if we voted for Commission government. They told the delegation that if we voted for Commission government they would continue to stand behind it.

Now, when a man promises to do something for you, it's only common sense to take a look at his ability to do what he promises. He may make the promise in good faith and sincerity, but he may not be able to keep his promise. And so it is

with Great Britain. She promises to help Newfoundland if we need help in the future — provided we stay under Commission government. But then we take a look at Britain's condition, and we are very doubtful whether Britain would be able to give us any help for many years to come.

I have very great doubt about Britain's ability to help this country. I have no doubt at all about her sincerity.... If I had to sum it all up, I would say that so far as Great Britain is concerned, this country is on its own right now. We'll get *no* help from Britain whatever form of government we may choose. We needed to have the information that the London delegation brought back to us, and at last we are beginning to know where we stand.

Mr. Higgins I move that having received the report it be laid on the table for future reference. *[The motion carried. The committee rose and reported, and the Convention adjourned]*

May 22, 1947

Report of the Mining Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Higgins When we adjourned the consideration of this report everything had been finished with the exception of the reading of the final report from the Labrador Mining and Exploration Company of their work in the past year. I believe it is important to read it; and then all we have left is the summary of the Committee's report, and a paper by Mr. Claude Howse, Government Geologist....

Mr. Chairman Strictly speaking this is not a part of the report — it forms an appendix, but I have no desire to stop it from being read. With the consent of the committee we will allow it to be read.

[The Secretary read all the sections mentioned by Mr. Higgins]

Mr. Higgins That completes the report of the Mining Committee, and I move that the report do pass and be laid on the table.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Hollett I would like to say for the information of the Convention, regarding the Labrador Mining Co. and the 1944 act,² you will remember the report states that the act was submitted to the Imperial Institute of Mines in London, and that they did not take exception to the act. I took occasion when in London to visit South Kensington, and I saw this Imperial Institute of Mines. The setup is this: they are partly financed by the imperial government and mostly by mining interests. We were informed that this Imperial Institute was made up of Lord Somebody and the deputy minister of mines for each dominion. There is one deputy minister of mines on the board, and that is the deputy minister for Canada. There are no other officials on the board. I inquired about the 1944 act and the 1938 act.³ They knew nothing whatsoever. Neither act had been submitted to them for their approval or otherwise. There was one point raised, and that was the

¹Volume II:313.

²An Act Further to Amend the Act No. 41 of 1938 Entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of an Agreement Between the Government and Labrador Mining and Exploration Company, Limited." 8 Geo. VI, c47 (1944).

³An Act for the Confirmation of An Agreement Between the Government and Labrador Mining and Exploration Company, Limited, 2 Geo. VI, c41, 1938.