

their appearance in many aspects of our economy. The prices of what we buy seem to be continually rising, while on the other hand we begin to see indications of a recession in the prices of those things we sell. And some are presently unsaleable. There is said to be a much larger quantity of our staple product of this year still unsold and in the hands of the merchants than for many years past, and there appears to be hesitation about making further purchases from the fishermen.

All these points and observations I have made, Mr. Chairman, and others like them that I have not the time to make today, are the stark considerations which are in the minds of our people and should be in ours. These are the considerations upon which we must, if we are true to Newfoundland, base all our thinking about our country's economy. It is a time when every factor must be taken honestly into consideration, and this time the people shall know the truth, and the truth shall set them free.

**Mr. Starkes** A few days ago, when I spoke on this Economic Report, I had hardly taken my seat when Mr. Hollett stood up and reeled off a whole lot of figures to show how much more prosperous our industries are than they were last year. I want to fill in some of the gaps left in Mr. Hollett's account of our industries. I want to tell you that at this moment many hundreds and thousands of producers are experiencing some of the worst misery they have ever known. Take a look at our biggest industry of all, the fisheries. Only last week a man from St. Mary's tramped Water Street, from one end to the other, trying to sell 1,000 quintals of good quality shore codfish, and had failed to sell any of it up to the time I was speaking to him. What about the truckloads of codfish brought in here last week by the fishermen, and carried back home again because nobody would buy it?

**Mr. Hollett** I rise to a point of order. I have been thinking about this ever since Mr. Starkes brought it up. Any figures which I quoted the other day were based on this, and were actual figures taken from the report. Why he imputes this statement to me I would like to know, and more than that, he spoke of somebody coming in with a truckload of fish. I wonder, could we have an official report of that? I would like to know. These are things we want.

**Mr. Chairman** I think I must sustain you on the first point. By the process of elimination my very definite recollection, Mr. Hollett, is that any figures quoted by you were from the Finance Report or the Economic Report. Their accuracy, of course, would obviously be decided when these reports come before the House. On the second point, however, I have to sustain Mr. Starkes, because I feel that any member must be free to express an opinion. I must assume that the opinion is honestly expressed, and he shall not be required to defend it simply because his opinion is not shared universally by other members of the Convention. Therefore I don't think he is out of order, because I don't think I can allow this Convention to be resolved into a court of judicature where every member would have to provide independent corroboration. That would be a very serious state of affairs, Mr. Hollett.

**Mr. Hollett** On that point again, if I may. We must remember that we are speaking to the people when we speak here, and if Mr. Starkes is going to make a statement about somebody bringing in a truckload of fish and not selling it, it will cause alarm in this country. I think, therefore, that any statement of that kind should be substantiated.

**Mr. Chairman** I see the seriousness of what you say, Mr. Hollett, but as I see it I am powerless to prevent consequences which may follow from any member's making an ill-advised statement. I think the members would be well advised to seriously consider every statement that they make before it is made; but on the other hand, unless and until the remark is out of order, I can't deal with it, and I think, in the circumstances, Mr. Starkes, I can't do anything.

**Mr. Starkes** I was not contradicting Mr. Hollett's figures, I was just filling in the gaps that he left out.

**Mr. Hollett** These are not my figures, they are from the Financial Report and the Economic Report.

**Mr. Chairman** I must sustain you, Mr. Hollett.

**Mr. Hollett** The gaps then that you are proposing to fill in are the gaps left by the Economic Report and the Finance Report, as the case may be.

**Mr. Starkes** Why is it that our salt codfish exports fall short over 100,000 quintals as compared with the same period last year? What about