

when I went to England. I am not in the frozen fillet business, but I know what diversification can mean to the fish industry. People had put large sums of money into cold storage and processing equipment. New draggers had been built. The fresh frozen fishery was changing the lot of many thousands of fishermen by giving them cash returns and relieving them of the toil and uncertainty of curing salt cod. However, to keep up production until the American and other markets expand, we have to find an outlet for our full production for a period of two or three years of readjustment. Britain had taken most of our fillets. Now she is cutting us off completely, and giving orders to Norway and Iceland. When this matter was raised, Lord Addison did admit that Newfoundland fish was preferred by the Ministry of Food. When he was then asked why negotiations were going on for the purchase of 12,000 tons of Icelandic fish at higher prices, while Newfoundland had fish to offer, he said that Iceland was a soft money country. I told him that the Icelanders had to get goods, if, *with this money they were unable to buy things in other markets*, because, you know, you can't eat five pound notes, and then Lord Addison tried to change the subject. I referred to our suggestion that Newfoundland lend dollars out of her surplus to help Britain pay for our fish, and all the Dominions Secretary did was to tell us we had no right to be discussing trade matters. These were outside our terms of reference. It was pointed out that we had to report on the economic prospects of the country, and had to know something about these trade matters, and all we met was a brick wall. The only possible conclusion was that it was a political matter and that, for reasons best known to herself and not for shortage of dollars, Britain was willing to buy Icelandic fish that she did not like as well as ours, and was willing to pay more for it than our producers wanted. If that is a square deal, I don't know what the term means....

On other matters we were left in a state of uncertainty. We can get no assurance that they will keep on buying Bell Island ore, even though very soon the British government itself will own and operate the steel mills through nationalisation, and thus will not have to intercede with private owners. We can get no assurance they will continue to buy other local products they can use. They turned us down cold on our proposition to

lend them dollars, and then they expect us to come home happy and tell you what grand people they are because they got us a car to see the sights of London, and tickets for a football match, and tickets to an A.P. Herbert show. Mr. Chairman, the very existence of the people of this country is bound up in these trade matters, but it seems to me that the position of our people is less of importance than the special British interests in Iceland and elsewhere. In the end, on all matters that they didn't want to talk about, we were told that we were outside our terms of reference. We were reminded we were not a government, although I cannot help thinking that, as the only elected representatives of the people, we have more right to be considered their spokesmen than this prudent Commission whose voice may be its own, but whose acts are those of the Dominions Office. Time and again we were told the Commission was the government, and it was up to them to propose this or suggest that. We said the Dominions Office was the real government, which they half-denied and half-admitted. I can assure you the Dominions Office is the government, and Commission government only its agents, in fact one Commissioner asked us to remember that they were only agents.... It is all very well for them to tell us that if we choose Commission government they will guarantee our debt and our solvency. They hedge these guarantees about with such qualifications as "to the extent of our ability" and so on. In any case, Lord Addison can safely promise for the time being because our prudent Commission of Government still has \$30 million to spend and seem to be getting through it with anything but the prudence that Lord Addison gives them credit for.

Just a word about Gander. What I didn't like was their ramming down our throats the fact that the British taxpayer will have to foot this \$500,000 a year as their share of Gander's deficit. I am as sorry for the British taxpayer as anyone can be, but don't let this get out of line. The people of Britain are poor in goods. They are not short of money, but even if they had lots of money and all that money was dollars, it would be the same thing as far as I am concerned. Gander is directed by the British government. The special position of the United Kingdom in Newfoundland has enabled the British government to get special concessions from other countries for