

Government of Canada?

Mr. Chairman I have had to rule my friend Mr. Hollett out of order, and I have had to do the same thing with Major Cashin, but you are getting pretty far afield now, as to whether or not, for example, Bowaters or the AND Company would have the right to take in residents from some part of Canada in lieu of Newfoundlanders, bearing in mind the fact that in becoming the tenth province Newfoundland becomes a part of Canada. I want to say ... that we are getting very far afield.

Mr. Cashin It is a very important point.

Mr. Chairman This Convention should not be improperly placed in the position where it has to make pronouncements upon far-reaching points of law, or where I am called upon to express an opinion upon a point of law; which I don't have to do, except insofar as it concerns the interpretation of the Convention Act.... I think, Major Cashin, the point by you is well taken, that is, address your questions on legal points to the Department of Justice in this country or in Canada, consistent with our practice in submitting various other questions to various other departments of government.

Mr. FudgeAs far as this employment of French Canadians on the Labrador — I have asked in a good many cases, where we have signed agreements with employers, that preference be given to people who reside in the area. However, before we get the number of employees required, people from all over the

island have flocked in and have been hired. Similarly, if there is work down there, the Canadians will have their men there before we get the message. It is a waste of time to discuss it.

Mr. Chairman To get a clear-cut answer to the questions raised by Major Cashin, which I consider to be of far-reaching importance, the only thing to do is to address a series of questions calculated to determine whether there are existing contracts, and whether Newfoundlanders are to be employed in the event of the constitutional status of the country being altered.

Mr. Miller If we take measures to keep these workmen out of Labrador, it would be a poor basis to start off on. All the other provinces might set up laws to keep Newfoundlanders out of the other parts of Canada. If we start out by saying, "You cannot work in our province — keep out", they can put up a poster in any other province to the same effect.

Mr. Chairman Discrimination almost invariably and inevitably provokes retaliation.

Mr. Bailey I do not believe any law or anything else can keep them out. If we have confederation, we are Canadians and they are Canadians.

Mr. Chairman In view of the fact that Major Cashin is going to table a question on that point, we are putting the cart before the horse.

[The committee rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

December 2, 1947

Mr. Cashin I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask His Excellency the Governor to obtain from the Canadian government the following information:

- (1) The annual revenues and expenditures of the Dominion of Canada each year from the year 1931-32 to the year 1946-47, both years inclusive.
- (2) The total amount of loans raised each year from 1931-32 to 1946-47, showing where such loans were raised and what interest is being paid.
- (3) The annual revenues and expenditures of the Canadian National Railways and its subsidiaries from 1931-32 to 1946-47.
- (4) The total advances made each year from 1931-32 to 1946-47 by the Canadian treasury

to the Canadian National Railways on account of deficits incurred, or in the way of loans.

(5) The amounts of money paid by the Canadian government for each of the railway systems: the Grand Trunk, the Grand Trunk Pacific, and the Canadian Northern, all three of which are now included in the Canadian National Railway System. What was the total amount in dispute and defaulted on by the Canadian government in respect of the Grand Trunk bonds held by English financial institutions?

(6) Did the Canadian treasury guarantee any loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway prior to 1940, and if so what was the amount?

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