

England at one stage there was a fine balance between agriculture and industry. Great Britain found she could make more money by going into industry to the neglect of agriculture. At the present time she is going back and spending a lot of money to try and build up her agricultural possibilities. It seems to me that if we could build up a lot of industries which would return to us greater wealth than farming, then maybe we should not do much farming. My opinion is that we should always do so much, because if one of your vital industries sadly failed, you would have something to fall back on. Do you not agree?

**Mr. Higgins** Definitely.

**Mr. Butt** It is a question of the whole economy and stability. I believe in 1870, France, because of the fine balance between industry and agriculture, was able to pay off her debt to Germany and she came back quicker than if she had depended on industry.

**Mr. Higgins** That is likely what is happening in England today. I am sure your Committee gave thought to the matter.

**Mr. Butt** Yes, we thought of the soil which is rocky and rough; but you read the history of agriculture in Norway, and it is almost word for word the description of the soil in Newfoundland. If you read the history of the founding of the New England states, almost word for word would be the language used about the soils when they took over first. It seems to the Committee we are starting agriculture 300 years too late. We have the advantage now, of course, we will be able to use modern machinery, whereas before, it was done by back-breaking work.

**Mr. Higgins** Do you think we might be able to catch up?

**Mr. Butt** Some people think we might be able to do much more than at the present time. We will in time compete in various fundamental items of agriculture.

**Mr. Smallwood** Livestock?

**Mr. Butt** Not for a long time. It might be possible to rear calves for milk production and afterwards sell the cows. To go in for production on a big scale might be questionable. The same thing is true for sheep. A man has eight or ten sheep on a normal size farm; that can be worked all right; but to have sheep as a commercial proposition is not feasible.

**Mr. Smallwood** I could add to that. I was talking to a farmer in the west end of St. John's; he grew 2,000 barrels of potatoes. He did not grow them on his own land, he did not have enough, but he got the use of two or three farms and he grew 2,000 barrels, ... sold them and made money on them. He himself said the trouble is that if you plant out five or ten acres in potatoes, you have not got enough land to do it on a large scale. Your unit of production is very low; and your cost per bushel or barrel naturally is going to be high. You have to get a high price to make it pay. The only way to get a good price is through the customs tariff which will make the price of competing potatoes artificially higher. If you get away from the small unit, and turn out at the rate of 2,000 barrels, you can make money....

*[There followed a discussion on meat prices. The committee passed the report, rose and reported, and the Convention adjourned]*

### February 28, 1947

**Mr. Chairman** Orders of the day. Mr. Hollett to move the following resolution:

Whereas it has been intimated to this Convention by His Excellency the Governor in Commission that he is prepared to forward to the Government of the United Kingdom any enquiries from this Convention respecting financial and fiscal relationships which may be expected in the event that the people of this country at the proposed forthcoming referendum to be held in Newfoundland, should decide on any of the following forms of Government:

1. Commission of Government in its present

form;

2. A revised form of Commission of Government;

3. Responsible Government;

4. Any other suitable form of government;

And Whereas His Excellency the Governor in Commission has further informed us that should the Convention request discussion of these questions with the Government of the United Kingdom by a delegation from the Convention Members, His Excellency will enquire and inform the Convention whether such a delegation would be received;

And Whereas in the event that such a