

stood that the members of the Convention are performing the duty they took upon themselves when elected. In spreading the work over the whole Convention, it will expedite the programme. I should add here that the Steering Committee is also considering some method of expediting the obtaining of information for the Convention itself, and in particular the question as to whether or not sub-committees on information would be a better way than the way we are following. The questions would go immediately

to that committee which would meet every morning and would then consider whether any of the questions are repetitious, and that being decided, would have them sent at once to the appropriate departments concerned, and see that the information comes back with all possible speed; the idea being that basic information is essential and should be obtained with all despatch and in the simplest way possible. Perhaps it would be an improvement....

Motion to Appoint a Statistician-Economist

Mr. Chairman I notice in the order paper that Mr. Smallwood was to move the appointment of a statistician-economist, actually it was Mr. Vincent. I now call upon Mr. Vincent.

Mr. Vincent I rise as seconder of the motion that a competent statistician-economist be appointed. The reasons are obvious. From time to time questions will be asked relevant to this Convention. A lot of material will be furnished and the work will be somewhat arduous, and I suggest that an expert, the type of Professor Wheare, be engaged to assimilate and properly conduct an investigation into the figures so that we would be able to expedite the work more properly.

Mr. Cashin In connection with asking that a political economist be brought in to direct us in many matters, I think it is time we stopped people coming telling us what we can do. We have two gentlemen, members of this Convention, one of whom is Mr. Hollett, who has a master's degree from Oxford. Why do we go outside and bring in strangers to show us what we can ourselves do. There are too many brought in taking the places of Newfoundlanders, who are not as competent as our own. Therefore I oppose such a resolution.

Mr. Butt I think Major Cashin misunderstood the resolution. The motion is for a 'statistician' economist, not a 'political' economist. I doubt if there is a competent statistician-economist in this country.

Mr. Cashin I do not mind appointing a statistician-economist, but I do insist that he be a Newfoundlander.

Mr. Job I would like to ask if it is someone in the country or outside? Or if the proposer of the motion had any intention that someone should be imported? One would think that we ought to do this work.

Mr. Smallwood The idea is not that of getting a political economist. We have one in Professor Wheare. The idea is to get a man accustomed to examining and analysing figures, drawing graphs, percentages and doing work for the delegates to help us to see the trends indicated and the meanings of the statistics to be produced. I do not know of one Newfoundlander now in the country — there may be Newfoundlanders outside the country — who is a statistician economist. Major Cashin directed a question of the utmost importance, perhaps the most fundamental that has been tabled to date, the figures showing the gross national production of Newfoundland....

Mr. Cashin National income.

Mr. Smallwood A figure no man knows yet; a figure without which government and the Convention are groping about in the dark. It is a vital question. Mr. Chairman, a man such as this motion has in mind, brought to this country can inside of perhaps two months or ten weeks arrive for the first time in the country's history at precisely that result. We have been guessing all our lives about what the country is worth. I spent three months compiling one table that occupied half a page of a book I wrote. I went to every manufacturer in the country and by cajolery got out of him the figures as to the production of his plant for the preceding year. I did it by promising each that I would not let anyone else know. I am not saying this statistician should know the value of manufactures. But manufacturers in what we call our local industries are merely one element going to make up the gross national production of Newfoundland. Mr. Chairman, if such a man were brought here, not only would he be useful to Major Cashin, who must, from the moment the