

new wage agreement will, I hope, be made up and we are looking forward to a further increase.

**Mr. Hollett** Can you give us the approximate earnings of woodcutters during the past season? I know they varied considerably, depending on the ability of the woodcutters. Could you give us the approximate figure?

**Mr. Fudge** I am speaking of the Bowater operations. We find that the average cut per man is 1½ cords; he is paid not less than \$3.86 on an average. You will find the average has increased, and the reason is because the men have better accommodations and better food and are therefore better able to do a day's work. The average days' work in the woods per month is around 23 working days.

**Mr. Ballam** The figures quoted here are average. I think the earnings of many men are much higher. You will always find that there are some who work better than others. They can clear \$5 a day less one cent, that is the general overall average. There are fellows who have a chance of making \$10 or \$12 a day. There are fellows who make that average for months on end. They are extra good cutters. On a general average they clear \$5 a day.

**Mr. Fudge** I do not want to offend my friend, but I do not think that is correct. A logger does not clear \$12 a day on an average. There are deductions for board and medical fees. They have to buy blankets and shirts.

**Mr. Hollett** While we are on this particular

paragraph I rise to pay tribute to the work being done by the Woods Labour Board in connection with wages in the woods. If it had not been for that board and for the chairman<sup>1</sup> who looked after their interests, we would have had considerable trouble in Newfoundland during war years.... In Grand Falls, I have known bodies of men who worked together in harmony and I wish to pay tribute to these unions in Grand Falls. It is only by the companies and the unions getting together that we can have harmony in woods operations and for that matter in all operations throughout the country.

**Mr. Fudge** There is another thing I would like to mention — forest fires. I remind the delegates that when you take into consideration the number of men working in the companies' woods during the summer months, and compare the number of fires, you will be surprised to hear that very seldom do we get a fire caused by woodsmen. There was only one year that we had two fires and there is, at times, anywhere from 5,000 to 6,000 men engaged in the forest industry and I should say most of those men make little fires to boil their kettles and get their lunch twice a day, and it is remarkable to see how careful the woodsman is in protecting the forest. We should not forget them when bringing in this report.

*[There was some discussion of the section on local sawmills and the export of pitprops. The committee of the whole then rose and reported progress. The Convention adjourned]*

November 8, 1946<sup>2</sup>

### Report of the Forestry Committee:<sup>3</sup> Committee of the Whole

**Mr. Cashin** This concerns the whole territory of Labrador, and I should inform the committee that I have here a map which has been supplied to us by the Department of Natural Resources, showing where the different timber areas are located. I will pass it around. You will notice that in the Hamilton Inlet area there are 300 square miles under lease. About 100 square miles of that has been taken over by the airport at North West

River.<sup>4</sup> The other 200 square miles left was at one time supposed to have over 2 million cords of wood. The lease on that expires within five years, also the Muskrat Falls waterpower. From the Hamilton River you come to Kenimau River — 2,100 square miles. That's a 99-year lease, with about 70 years to go. All the others are 99-year leases, and the people who have held them have paid \$2 per square mile annually ever since they

<sup>1</sup>R. Gushue.

<sup>2</sup>The Secretary, Captain Warren, acted as Chairman.

<sup>3</sup>Volume II:56.

<sup>4</sup>Goose Bay air base.