

their speed for getting concessions by the old acts, because as far as I can see they have concessions here which are equally as good to the corporation, if not better, than any in the days gone by....

It is evident to me the government never saw the Quebec act. There was no copy of the Quebec act in this country until a few days ago.... Our government never took the trouble to find out what had been done in Quebec with the associated company; never got copies of the Quebec act; there was not one in the country; we could not get one from the Canadian High Commissioner....

I can't understand some of those who get up in an elder statesman style, and suggest that this act will redound to the benefit of this country. We have got to think not of the benefits we will get in the next ten years, but of the benefits of that iron ore deposit 50 years hence. Mr. Higgins has drawn to your attention the way in which the iron ore deposits in the States have been depleted. We have a deposit in the Labrador and we don't know the extent of it, but we are told they are sure of 260 million tons of ore, and they have only scratched the surface. We have a deposit which, if properly handled by the government, could insure to the present population of this country something which will certainly redound to their benefit in the future. I therefore can't agree with the people who get up, and more or less sanctimoniously say, "We can't do anything, the act is made and we will have to put up with it. We hope they will make a profit, and if they do we shall get 5%." If we don't get 5%, we will get nothing. Some say, "Yes, you will have a town down there and you will get the profits that way." I can't see that. It will take a good many years before we get a few thousand Newfoundlanders working down there in Labrador. We have not got 2,500 Newfoundlanders to go down there and mine for a good many years to come. They want to mine, and they will get men from Canada, Poland, Czechoslovakia and other places. They want the ore, and they can't wait until we get the miners to send there. I can't see that it will mean much to Newfoundlanders.

It is my opinion that we should go on record as a Convention elected by the people as being opposed to it. Let it not be said of us 25 or 50 years hence, "That Convention knew about this,

and did they make no move whatsoever?" I tell you, gentlemen, it is up to us to bring it to the notice of the Commission of Government and the Dominions Office, what we as a Mining Committee think, and I think the majority of the Convention will agree....

Mr. VardyAlthough we agree that profits are very limited on iron ore, yet I cannot believe that 10 cents per ton is an unreasonable charge to make for royalty. It is so insignificant that I cannot believe that any company would attempt to go there if they did not have a reasonable assurance they would make a greater profit than that. I realise we are not miners or great industrialists, but our concern over these matters has, I am sure, been motivated by a keen sense of our responsibility to the people who sent us here, in which matters the Commission of Government is apparently very little concerned. I can assure the Convention and the people that the changes made in 1944 have caused us many headaches, and we can only hope that some good will come to this country as a result of the changes. We have the railway and water-power acts to be drafted, and I hope that the government responsible will see to it that we get a deal more conducive to the best interests of the people of Newfoundland....

Mr. Chairman I don't know how long this debate will take. I assume that you will agree to waive notice, and allow the resolution to be introduced immediately.

Mr. Higgins I was going to add that we will not be able to finish any further debate on the Labrador section. We still have the Summary, but if there is any lengthy debate on the motion Mr. Hollett proposes to make we will not be able to finish before six, so I was going to ask if we could wind up at this point by making a couple of amendments to this report....

Mr. Chairman I take it that these may be permitted without formal debate....

Is there any further discussion, gentlemen? Moved and seconded that this section be adopted as read with the amendments made by the chairman of the Mining Committee. Is the committee ready for the question?

[The motion carried]

Mr. Higgins I would now ask leave to rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman This will be the final report to