

that no disclosure be made to the public. He was in duty bound not to disclose it. He left us to understand that no alienation of the timber lands would be made without a very careful checking of the people with whom the deal was made. I would like Mr. Jackman to know that I am not defending the government, but it seems reasonable for the Commissioner to reply that he could not give the information, and we felt that we should not insist further. I think we all understood the situation.

**Mr. Jackman** If we can't get the information that we want, I claim that the whole thing is a farce.

**Mr. Higgins** The names of the people, that was the only information refused. The other information is known only to private companies who went in there exploring the timber possibilities. Those facts I don't believe are accessible to the Committee. Major Cashin probably knows of them, but officially I don't suppose he would be allowed to disclose them.

**Mr. Ashbourne** I would like to know the potential value of Labrador to Newfoundland. I know that her fisheries are most valuable. We know that the stand of timber on the Labrador is a stand which, in my opinion, is virgin growth and we also have heard quite a bit of the value of the minerals there. Now since last night I have been doing a little figuring, and I think it can be safely assumed that we have in Labrador 110,000 square miles, and seeing that half of that might contain a stand of timber, which would be 2,000 square miles (and by the way about 10% of Labrador is under 99-year lease), this gives us about 35,200,000 acres, and I believe Major Cashin said last night that it has been said that the yield of wood on the acreage is up to 15 cords an acre. I think that's quite high myself. I am taking half of that, 7.5 cords the acre, which would bring the cordage, according to my figures, to 264 million cords of timber. Now I see an estimate here of from 50 to 100 million cords in the report, as compared with 60 million cords in Newfoundland.... I am greatly interested in the statement given to the Convention by Mr. Burry this afternoon, and I am sure that when he speaks about the timber he knows what he is talking about, but in view of the fact that we have no competent surveys of the timber areas in Labrador, and I believe that we should get those

surveys which might be given now. You can get photography now, a valuable asset to the economy of Newfoundland as regards the fisheries and the mineral wealth of Newfoundland. I believe Mr. Chairman that we should try as a Convention to ascertain some real idea of the potential wealth of Newfoundland.

Now, I hope the time will not come when Newfoundland will be a bald rock. It will influence the climate, and if we do not, in my opinion, look after the matter of reafforestation, a matter which I advocated in the Assembly over 20 years ago, I fear very much that the time will come when Newfoundland will be cut out. I can quite understand that, according to the two large pulp and paper companies, by discriminate cutting they may be able to afford a program of reafforestation which will look after their needs, but I believe it was Mr. Fudge who talked of not a stick of wood remaining in 40 years in the country generally, and I think that the time has come when the recommendation as given by this Committee should be apprehended. If there is indiscriminate cutting in Newfoundland we can reasonably expect to know what is in store for us.

The fisheries of Newfoundland, in my opinion, are influenced to a great extent by the fall of snow which happens during the winter on the northeast coast of Newfoundland particularly. We know that the last two years particularly we have had poor voyages and some of it may be because there is not enough snow on the ground. Years ago the fisherman used to say if we had lots of snow you would have a good cod fishery. As the snow settles on the ground, and as the rains descend in the spring and wash out from the ground the salt and other minerals of the land, we know that the fish pick up these minerals, and as regards the herring fishery ...

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Ashbourne, what has all this got to do with the present report?

**Mr. Ashbourne** Well, I am talking about the reafforestation of Newfoundland. I don't want the time to come when Newfoundland will be bald rock, and not be able to have any snow settle on the lands so that our fisheries would be depleted, because the earning power of our people comes from the natural resources of our country.

Now, we need cooperage, which is a thing that comes from the forests, by which we can ship our