

and ashes, forever doing the penance of an emaciated pauperhood for sins of history that were not ours. It needs no more than a glance to see that in its essential characteristics the economy of Newfoundland has not changed. Historically our economy has always been an export economy. It still is. The dynamics that move our economy today are, as always, the production of staple products for sale abroad. For the most part our production has no vested interest in serving our own island. We have to import most of what we need, even considerable quantities of potatoes. We are geared, after some fashion, to serve the world, not to serve ourselves. The population upon which the whole market is founded is so meager that it does not permit of such mass production as would be essential to any servicing of ourselves with manufactured goods. And so the essential character of our economy remains the same; it has not taken upon itself any of the characteristics of an industrial economy. Nevertheless, modifications have come with the years.

For years the economy of Newfoundland was almost entirely a matter of what came of the export of dried salt codfish. When the fishery and the world markets were favourable the people ate — fish and brewis; when they weren't, people tightened their belts and ate fish and hoped that the winter wouldn't be too hard. In time the economy came to be broadened out at the base to the export of other fish besides cod; and still further the economy came to be expanded in consequence of the export of newsprint and some minerals. In comparatively recent years, one or two other odds and ends such as blueberries have come to be exported; and then the expansion of the economy at its base came to an end. We had run out of natural resources. Thereafter there could be room only for quantitative expansion. The export expansion would have to be by way of the seams. In the meantime our economy has not shown any signs of going out at the seams. There have been no indications of middle-age spread. Rather has the shape of our economy been mostly such as that induced by taking in another notch in the belt.

Any expansion that has materialised since 1934 has been in quantity rather than variety. What has been involved has been increased capacity to turn out the same commodities as

before — in some instances in new forms. There has been no production of new commodities derived from the tapping of natural resources of other categories than those previously worked, production of such dimension as did materially affect the economy of the country. Whether that is a condition that will continue to obtain for the duration of our time is anybody's guess. It is not impossible that we might have some minor developments in asbestos and coal. But whether they would make a noticeable impact upon our economy is imponderable. Also among the imponderables, is the impact we may expect the development of Labrador to have upon our economy. There is reason to think that its economic potential is considerable. The pertinent question is, in just whose interest is that potential to be developed, the people of Labrador or the people of Newfoundland? It seems to me that until now the people of Labrador have fared none too well at our hand. We haven't gone out of our way to provide them with even minimum public and social services. I understand that luxury roads of the type of the Topsail Road are few and far between down that way. Indeed I understand that roads of any type are as few and as far between down that way as street lights and railways and other public amenities. Come to think of it, in the days when we did have responsible government, we never even thought it worth our while to extend to the people of Labrador the privilege of a ballot. Indeed, we didn't get around to giving a second thought to Labrador until it seemed as if we might get something out of it. It would be interesting to know the thoughts of Labradorians when they hear some of our political pundits raising the roof over the raw deal Newfoundland's gotten from somebody or other. It must sometimes occur to them that Newfoundland doesn't do so badly itself when it comes to dishing out raw deals. I have a hearty dislike of that mentality that is concerned with Labrador only to the extent that it may be exploited for Newfoundland's advantage. The most that we have any right to expect of the development of Labrador is the provision of sufficient revenue to support the public and social services the Labrador people have every right to expect. These we are in any case obligated to provide even if Labrador should go undeveloped. If we make no effort to provide them then I think that