

I don't think it is proper or right for any man in this Convention, with a microphone six inches away from his nose, to be continually getting up and damning anybody in this country. Whether they have done wrong in the past or not, that's not our job. Our job is to get the facts and present them to the people. The idea of these microphones is not so that a man can get up and display himself as a patriot to the people of the country. I do not agree that any man has a right to commandeer a microphone which is by his nose day after day, and give no other man a chance to speak. I say that with due respect to all the men who have the microphones near them. I do not intend to tolerate this. The thing has to be properly regulated or else the microphones will have to be taken away. No man should be able to get up and monopolise the air for three quarters of the time this Convention is sitting, and set himself up as a champion of the cause of the common man. I do not intend to stand this any longer, Mr. Chairman.

Having said that, we will go on to page 11, the point raised by Mr. Smallwood where he said there were 2,800 men or something. Any man who has any knowledge of mining knows that it is a pretty heavy job, and the men can't stay down in the mines day after day for 363 days in the year, and there is considerable absenteeism. Some of the men do not work more than three quarters of the workable days of the year. That's the explanation. You will find that in every mine in the world.

Mr. Ashbourne About the weighing of the ore, I don't know how the company pays their men if it is not weighed. Is it by so much per ton?

Mr. Hollett They pay them so much per day.

Mr. Ashbourne At any rate it's got to be sent out by ships, and I presume it is sent out at a certain freight rate, which is so much per ton. I presume the ships can only carry so much, and they should know approximately the tons. That is one way of checking up on the weight.

Mr. Penney I would like to ask the convenor of the Mining Committee a question. How long do you figure it will take this Convention to reach Labrador if we travel along via St. Lawrence and the Rambler and the intermediate stations? That is if we are as long as we are at Bell Island?

Mr. Higgins We will probably need a diamond drill!

Mr. Smallwood I hope that having got that off

his chest Mr. Hollett feels happier, but I want Mr. Hollett to know this — that I am a hard man to scare and a hard man to talk down, and, within the rules of this House and this Convention, I will talk as often as I like, whether he likes it or not, microphones or not.

Mr. Higgins I was going to add a paragraph from the minutes we took at our meeting with Mr. Anson that probably would explain a lot of the talk we have had: "On the ore we sold to the United Kingdom this year we finally came to a price agreement with them in March (1946). That price agreement was negotiated on the basis of what they wanted to buy for, and what we wanted to get. Eventually we got this figure, their last offer. We had to make estimates of what it would cost us to produce on that basis, which meant putting all mines into full operation and making our estimates based on production of prewar days. We thought we could ship for what they offered and make a few cents. Unfortunately it did not turn out this way. On all the ore we are shipping this year to England I expect to show a loss of 30 cents per ton. You cannot run a business that way. Their price is always negotiated in sterling. We have to convert into dollars. If England next year will buy the ore at the same price she paid us this year, due to the drop in sterling, and between that and the loss this year, we have got 60 or 70 tons to make up. We have got to sell the ore and break even. If somebody can tell us the answer to that one I would like to know it."

I give you that to think about when you are speaking of the big profits Wabana is supposed to be making.

Mr. Bailey A short time ago I was reading an article on ore, etc., and the question of Wabana came up, and also the question of steel. It said that because of the low content of the ore from Wabana, the steel works in Sydney were up against it; also that the ore in Labrador was of a higher grade, a superior ore, and it looks like in the next few years when the Labrador mines come into effect that the United States and Canada would make a change, and in that case it would give the low grade ore of Bell Island a chance. I think they have been having it pretty tough as far as I can find out....

Mr. Harrington Before we move on I would like to ask this question. We have touched on the