

answers begin to come in, be a very busy man, but he would be a great help to all of us. Major Cashin could say to him, "Here are a mass of figures, will you get to work on these and work out graphs, percentages, etc?" In addition he can be set loose at the much bigger and more fundamental job of finding out for the first time in 450 years just what is the national income of Newfoundland, and to what extent is the government imposing upon the people a burden they ought not to be called upon to bear. What will the people have left to live on when the taxation is taken from them? Who knows? No one. We know what is taken from them roughly, but we don't know what they are left with. I am thinking of a man who made exactly a study of this kind of thing in New Zealand and Australia, and who is at this moment making it for the city of New York, and I don't think the best is any too good. With no ulterior motives this is purely a matter of getting help. If there is no Newfoundlander or no outsider to be obtained I will have the Devil if he will give us that kind of help.

**Mr. Hollett** After my friend Mr. Smallwood, I hesitate to speak on this matter. We have had experts dealing with the economics and finances of this country over the past 12 years, and probably for many years before, and many of these experts have made up graphs, tabulated figures, and based opinions on the figures and graphs which are there for any man to read. We should all like to know the actual national income of this country. That is a job definitely for a statistician, but one which is going to take a much longer period than the life of this Convention. At least I hope so. If the people of this country desired the

importation of an expert or statistician to find out and explain to them the economic and financial condition of this country they probably would have been able to dispense with electing 45 men to get it in their own way. But we shall get the information so that we at least shall be able to interpret it to the people who sent us here. I feel that we have no authority to engage a statistician, and I am not quite sure that the Commission of Government are going to fall for the importation of another expert. Most of us know, generally, the economic condition of this country, and the fact of putting it down in bold figures is not going to help us tremendously, or make up our minds. The various committees you are going to appoint to go into the different aspects of the life of this country will be able to bring forward enough facts and figures to enable us to go into the matter, and I oppose the motion.

**Mr. Ballam** Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. Hollett. Although there may be a necessity of bringing in an expert, I think that is exactly why we were elected — to make a study, in our own way, of the economic position of this country. As our previous speaker mentioned, we have already had too many experts, and I think we are quite capable of doing the job.

**Mr. Chairman** Is the Convention ready for the question? Proposed by Mr. Smallwood and seconded by Mr. Vincent that the Convention request the government to appoint a competent statistician to better enable us to ascertain the financial and economic status of the country. Those in favour say "Aye". Contrary "Nay". The "Nays" are very heavy.

### Report on the Financial and Economic Condition of Newfoundland<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Chairman** Major Cashin, the Report on the Economic and Financial Condition of Newfoundland will be now received.

**Mr. Cashin** Mr. Chairman, in rising to move that this Convention receive the Financial and Economic Report on Newfoundland, presented by the Secretary of State for the Dominions to the British Parliament in June past, I would first ask the indulgence of the Convention for the purpose of making a few introductory remarks.

As my first sentiments, Mr. Chairman, I wish

to offer my most sincere congratulations upon the high honour and distinction which has been conferred on you, in your appointment as Chairman of this assembly of elected representatives of the Newfoundland people, the first to meet in this historic chamber since the suspension of responsible government in December, 1933. It is nearly 13 years since the surrender of our democratic form of government, since the control of our national destinies was transferred to the Dominions Office in London.

<sup>1</sup>Report on the Financial and Economic Position of Newfoundland (Cmd. 6849, 1946). This report, prepared by G.W. St.J. Chadwick and E. Jones was popularly known as the "Chadwick-Jones Report." Volume II:16.