

privilege and right of the fisherman and mill owner. This one came from Mr. Smallwood's district:

Dear Sir:

With the opening of the National Convention, I wish to draw your attention for a few moments — knowing you are appointed one of the Forestry Committee.

What I wish for you to do, is to put before your committee the circumstances of the sawmill owners and the general public of the east coast of Bonavista Bay.

In this district there are quite a number of sawmills which support quite a number of families and do a lot of good. Without these mills, the people of the east coast would be in a very awkward position for building purposes. In the very near future — if something is not done — if we need say one hundred feet of lumber, we will have to import it from Canada, which to my idea should not be necessary.

I think it time we should get busy and demand a certain cutting plan, not that I want to interfere with the operations of any of the companies; I will say there is sufficient timber if laid out in the proper way, so will you kindly do your best to get something done.

To my mind the forestry situation is similar to the road building in this country; a few places get all the roads leaving the others with nothing.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future.

We may be forced to import lumber for our people. The fishing industry cannot exist without timber resources. My friends down in Greenspond must have material to build boats. They must cut wood to erect stages, and they must have fuel. Obviously none of today's temporary political administrators in this country care two hoots as to what happens to the fishermen, planter, or the small mill owner. Their very existence is dependent on the forests of our island. Have these men a case? Their fathers pioneered and blazed the trails. Now this birthright is gone; they may not operate their mills; they may not erect a shipbuilding yard. This deplorable situation cannot be laid at the doors of the large newsprint corporations — rather it is to be placed squarely on the shoulders

of the government which permitted such a thing to happen.

The two paper companies play a big role in the economic life of Newfoundland. Both are progressively managed and contribute in a large way to the welfare of our people. But I affirm that the two past governments have blundered in permitting the leasing of the timber limits around the coastal belt of our island; but sympathy is not enough.... These men have a case. They have to protest....

**Mr. Chairman** The motion is that the committee rise and report having considered the matter to them referred.

**Mr. Ashbourne** Mr. Chairman, before the committee rises, I would like to make a few observations. What I would like to see is a statement showing how much money from the products of the forests remains in Newfoundland. We know some money goes out, but we are mostly interested in what remains. The people in our section were greatly disappointed when we realized that there would not be a mill on the Gander River, because we hoped to have a great deal of employment for the people of Notre Dame Bay and it was also hoped that mill would be able to utilise a considerable quantity of the timber on the Labrador.

I don't want it to be thought that I have any fantastic ideas on the value of Labrador, yet I maintain that we have an asset of great potential value, and that this territory should be safeguarded for generations to come, and not be bartered away. We have minerals, tremendous water-power, the Hamilton River, and ten main rivers in Labrador, a territory almost three times as large as Newfoundland, and twice as large as England. I hope and trust that these assets and natural resources will be so utilised that they will be an increasing earning power for our people. The matter of a sulphite mill (I presume to be run by waterpower) is an admirable suggestion....

I see that the government are making plans for a complete survey of Labrador timber, and I trust the people who make this survey will be competent to do it by an aerial survey and also a survey by land. It would be a good idea for the people of Newfoundland to put up a paper mill to be run on a co-operative basis, but unfortunately we are a small country. While we have many millions of dollars in the banks yet, unfortunate-