

talking about it....

[The committee then discussed the sections on slate, molybdenum, gypsum, manganese, antimony and bismuth. The Secretary read the section on brick-making]

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, it is quite an eye-opener — two plants in Trinity Bay making 600,000 bricks each, 1,200,000 bricks, and Mr. Dawe over at Makinsons, over 2 million bricks a year. It's amazing. That's an eye-opener to the country.

Mr. Higgins I believe that this section was prepared by Mr. Vardy, and he may have some comments to add. He will have to be the one to answer any comments.

Mr. Vincent Those Trinity Bay plants have modern methods — has Mr. Dawe's plant?

Mr. Vardy I worked on this with the other members of the Committee, but the plant at Snooks Harbour, Mr. Smith's plant, has some modern machinery, but they agree that it is not as modern as it should be. They tried to get in some machinery duty free but did not succeed, though finally they did get in one machine. It is quite an old industry, and naturally the people are very proud to find that the tests of the shale showed an abundant quantity, and it has proved very successful. We believe that the time is not far distant when the people owning the two brickyards over there will amalgamate. The chances are they will do that, and there will be a large company formed to manufacture brick out of this shale. In conversation with Professor Hayes, he informed us that this shale was of a very high quality, and the brick made from that will stand up against the very best imported article, and he could not see why there should not be an industry there employing from 100 to 200 men. One thing I would like to say for that brick industry over there, is that it has gone on continuously over a period of 40 or 50 years. One of the older brickyards closed down, but these other two yards have employed workers right through. They paid reasonable wages, and although the owners did not earn very much profit, yet, at the same time, those employed made a comfortable living and the owners of the yards have always come through. If there is any further information I can give I will.

I may say I was responsible for the section on slate. I have been through the slate mines in England and Wales, and worked in a slate quarry

when I was so young, that when a Welshman sent me in to see what time it was, I went in and looked up at the steam gauge and told him it was quarter past 90. I remember that quite well. I did not even know the time. Those quarries were worked for the period given in the report, and finally they found that owing to the very great cost of transportation in moving the slate from here to England, they could not compete with the Welsh quarries. The last that was sent over, they finished up loading the ship with cod oil in common casks. The ship got out and met rough weather, and by the time they got over there the whole thing was slate dust. That finished it for Newfoundland. There is some talk of having the quarries opened to manufacture slate dust for mineralised roofing, but the smooth roofing seems to have taken the place of it, and there is not much hope of doing anything about it, but the brick industry has a future.

Mr. Starkes In connection with this report here about Mr. Dawe operating near Brigus, it says the quality is equal to the imported, and they have also got a lot of machinery coming in. Further on in the report is this, "We understand the company is operating without any concessions with regard to duty". Does not that machinery come in duty free as far as all local industries are concerned? Don't they get their machinery duty free?

Mr. Vardy No, you must be a large company to get anything in duty free. A small industry does not have a chance.

Mr. Smallwood And it has got to be foreign.

Mr. Vardy Yes. If you are a large company, sure, you can corner a few politicians and you are OK for getting machinery in. I was for years with the present government trying to bring in wire netting free to dry fish on. A large American concern offered to give it free to the fishermen, the Philadelphia bankers guaranteed this firm and they offered to ship it, but the government would not consent to let the wire netting in duty free, with the result that the company withdrew. Samples were sent away, 900 bags by the Shaw Steamship Co., and the company would have done a large business in this country, but it was turned down because the material which they wanted to give away to the fishermen was not allowed in duty free.

Mr. Vincent If they had modern methods at George's Brook and Snooks Harbour, would