

complete, comprehensive and intelligent compilation of the news of each afternoon's proceedings — a masterly job. The job done by Mr. Jamieson, not exactly as a newscast but as a commentary, is a job of which all of us as Newfoundlanders ought to be proud, proud that we have a Newfoundlander who turns in a first-class, finished, professional job of commentary each night. The gentleman who prepares a broadcast for VOCM each day, again deserves commendation. The same of the men representing the *Evening Telegram* and the *Daily News* — fair, impartial and competent. I think our satisfaction with the Broadcasting Corporation itself, broadcasting the actual proceedings, and our satisfaction at that being done, ought not to overlook the splendid service rendered to the people of Newfoundland by the gentlemen who sit in the press box....

I have been accused of talking too much. Like my friend Major Cashin and Mr. Hollett and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Fudge and other gentlemen here, perhaps I talk too much. As a matter of fact I doubt it. I think that's what we were sent here for — to talk, and think, and study, and carry on research, and then talk, so that the people of Newfoundland can hear. Not just talk nonsense, but talk about our reports. Ten gentlemen here were appointed as a Finance Committee. They have spent months digging up the facts about this country's finances for many year past. Major Cashin turned in a splendid job here the other day, reading that report. What is the good of doing all that work, if it is not debated and broadcast for the people of Newfoundland? Take this magnificent report of the Mining Committee. The like of it has never before been assembled in the history of this country, and I have read just about everything published on mining in Newfoundland. What is the good of it, if the people can't hear the debate?

While I am at it, Mr. Chairman, I don't think the people of this country owe any gratitude to the half dozen people, maybe nine, in the last five or six months mostly hiding behind a *nom de plume*, who have written letters to the papers sneering at the Convention. We talk too much, etc., and they have not got the brains to know that that's what we are here for. If they were elected, and had to come in here, they would have to hold

their mouths because they have no brains. That's all we *can* do — talk. We can't order anybody to do anything. We can only study out our reports and come in here and debate them. We debate the reports so that the people of Newfoundland will know what is going on. There is one other thing. An old friend of mine in Elliston, Simeon Tucker, a fisherman since he was born almost, was in town the other day, and he said, "Mr. Smallwood, what we can't understand in Elliston is this: the way you fellows there in the Convention cross-hackle¹ each other." That's an outport expression, but they forget two things, first that the Governor, the day he opened this Convention, prophesied for us as an old-timer himself in the House of Commons, he said this, "Now, gentlemen, you will do your work and make your studies, and your feelings will run high sometimes, and when men's feelings run deep their language will sometimes become a bit heated, and they will be a bit excited". Save me from the cold-blooded brute whose feelings can't get worked up, and a man who can't express himself, or does not express himself with heat and enthusiasm. I would not trust him. Give me a man like Major Cashin or Mr. Higgins, or Mr. Bailey or myself, a man that feels a thing in his heart and gets up and says it. But now the people of the country are not used to that. What do they think the House of Assembly was — a Sunday school, where everybody got up and bowed and scraped and never lost their tempers? Oh no! Is the House of Commons a Sunday school? Oh no! A man whose name commands respect in this world, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, I myself saw Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons take up a book in a row that was going on, take up a book and fling it across the floor at another man. He was good and excited....

For the first time in their lives, our people have heard the proceedings of the House broadcast. If our people could compare our proceedings with those in the houses of parliament in other countries, they would say how decent and simple our debates are. We are a crowd of ordinary people trying to find out what we can. "Why is it taking so long?" some say. The Amulree Royal Commission came out here and it took them six months, and they had all kinds of help and experts. Their job was not one hundredth as big as

¹To cross-examine, to argue, to question (*Dictionary of Newfoundland English*, p. 123).