

trying to do is to find out if our island is self-supporting. How are we going to define the term "self-support" as it applies to Newfoundland?

To be self-supporting means the extent to which the people can produce the necessary goods and services in sufficient quantities to maintain its population in reasonable comfort, and that can only be done by the effort and ability of the people themselves, to provide these goods and services from the natural resources at their command. There is no standard by which we can measure self-support; as a country is developed its standard of living is measured accordingly. As an example, compare the standard of living in the United States and Canada, 100 years ago with that of today. Do likewise for Newfoundland, and judge for yourselves. I maintain that we in Newfoundland have progressed in parallel with our western neighbours. I am not trying to convey the idea that our standard of living is equal with those countries, but rather, our program has been comparatively even. I want you to consider our retarded development of the first two centuries after discovery, which, historians claim, was planned as a deliberate act. We were a very late starter in the race of progress.

As far as the revenue and expenditures are concerned, for the period which the Committee had under review, if we go back further than that, we find that for very near a century, since 1856 to 1947, this country has accumulated a national debt of only \$72 million. If we consider the late start of our national life, and if we consider the cost to Newfoundland for her participation in two world wars, then I maintain that our national debt is a paltry sum indeed. Perhaps if our national debt was ten times as great, we would have more friends. The Committee has shown quite clearly that as far as revenue and expenditure was concerned, the record is good, most definitely good.

In respect to the economic side, it is evident to me that in regard to the fishery, forest and mining industries, the Committee has reviewed all the evidence and factors pertaining to those industries, and have made their forecast accordingly. To some members, the forecast may appear to

be too optimistic....

There is another section of the report on which I want to say something, and that is in regard to agriculture. The Committee has not been too optimistic in their forecast. Our agricultural industry is capable of being expanded to at least twice its present value. I want to point out some very pertinent facts. During the 20 years immediately proceeding World War II, this country imported approximately \$60 million worth of farm produce. This volume of imports was composed of only those articles of food which can be produced here in this country by our local farmers. I am going to quote three items of food imported during the 20 year period mentioned: imports of eggs — 3,361,300 dozen; milk — 50,140,920 liquid lbs.; meats — over 380,899,700 lbs. Or, if we take it another way, and include imports of vegetables we find a total of over 300,000 tons of food imported during those 20 years. Here we have one of the causes of our troubles, an undeveloped and unorganised agricultural industry. This condition can and should be corrected. I believe that with the proper farm marketing organisation, and with more encouragement and determination on the part of our citizens to obtain their requirements from our local farmers, such a large volume of imports can be considerably reduced.

I am declaring myself in support of the opinion that this country is self-supporting now, and we can continue to be self-supporting in the future. I for one am proud of our historic record, Lord Amulree to the contrary notwithstanding, and I feel that we would have made progress along regular and ordinary lines without the intervention even of World War II, with its so-called boom of non-productive prosperity. We are no different from other people of the world in matters of native ability, industry and vision. What the future hold for us is anybody's guess. That holds good for every country, and our future depends entirely upon our own efforts to make that future as bright as possible.

[The committee rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]