

present government should have set up a small staff of accountants, perhaps an economist among them and so on, to materially assist the Convention in its fact-and-figure steeplechase. I am the first to admit that the co-operation we received on these lines among the civil service in the various departments was whole-hearted and valuable, but many of these people were already overworked and the amount of help they could give was limited.

I agree with Mr. Hollett's remarks in connection with the second paragraph on page 10. It seems strange to me also that there should be in existence since 1938 an Industrial Statistics Act, which however appears to be more honoured in the ignoring than in the implementation". I strongly support the Committee's recommendation that it be implemented, after careful revision which would produce some worthwhile changes. In this regard, I must add a few words, on the same matter which was one of the first obstacles met by the Local Industries Committee. The Committee says, "...we might say that from the outset we have been very much handicapped by the lack of figures and statistics in relation to employment, production, invested value and other figures regarding the secondary industries. There is a complete lack of the necessary figures". That last brief sentence has now become the official refrain of all committees; for, as was pointed out, the Mining Committee has been so handicapped, and it is no secret that the Public Health and Welfare Committee, of which I am a member, has been up against the same problem. In the debate on the supplementary report of the Forestry Committee and in previous reports of other committees, the same thing is found; the same abysmal ignorance of the various statistics that go to make up what Mr. Smallwood has been so much concerned with — namely, the gross national product. It is one of the great sins of omission of which the present government, with its 13 years of undisputed authority, has been guilty. I note too with some disappointment the lack of co-operation that the Committee had to contend with in connection with the questionnaires which were issued to various local firms for completion. It is regrettable that they did not consider the matter of sufficient national importance to supply the information desired, and it is to be hoped that the country will make note of

such an unco-operative attitude, or lack of interest. It is a small matter, but it serves to prove what insurmountable barriers lie in the way of the Convention's getting a true picture and a thorough appraisal of the general position of the country.

Only one other observation would I make. That is with reference to the rather sweeping remarks in connection with the figurative burning down of all local industries and paying the people so employed out of the treasury. I am aware that no one means that literally, but saying it does create a false impression in the case for local industries. I do not agree, any more than other speakers, with excessively high protective tariffs, but I do agree that local industries should have some protection, though within reason. That is a matter which requires much investigation as the Committee has said, and until such time as it has been thoroughly gone into, we should not so sweepingly condemn an avenue of employment which takes care of a fairly large section of the community. The process of reduction of duties should be a gradual one, over a period, so that those whose livings may be affected by the subsequent loss of local industries may become absorbed by other industries and in other occupations. It is a vexatious and highly complex matter and is not something which either the Local Industries Committee or the Convention as a whole can either solve or dispose of in the brief period of its existence.

All these comments have dealt with the first part of the report for to my mind it is the only controversial part; the second portion which consists more of an account of stewardship by the Newfoundland Industrial Development Board is not controversial and in the main is most satisfactory and encouraging. In the comparatively short time that this Board has been in existence, it has accomplished a variety of excellent projects, that have more than justified the setting up of this organisation. For those people who favour either complete governmental control or nationalisation of everything, and those who are equally in favour of governmental abstention from everything, especially where it may conflict with private enterprise, here is an example of how these two extremes can be more or less reconciled to bring about a mutual co-operation between government and private enterprise, with benefi-