

resolution, and he was appointed Commissioner for Justice.¹ The Speaker of the House, following the death of the deputy chairman of the Commission, was appointed Commissioner for Home Affairs and Education.² When the Registrar of the Supreme Court passed to his eternal reward, the former Speaker of the House³ took up that position. He was replaced by his brother, who became Commissioner for Justice and is now a judge of the Supreme Court. Two of them are in the Supreme Court now. In addition to which many others have been appointed to lucrative positions. Have any other persons been appointed Commissioners? They were promised that if they voted for that resolution, they would be looked after.⁴

Mr. Chairman You are making a charge which it is doubtful you can substantiate.

Mr. Cashin Yes, sir, I can.

Mr. Chairman These are matters that do not concern us.

Mr. Cashin Their salaries do.

Mr. Chairman I must ask you again not to indulge in personalities.

Mr. Cashin I am speaking of the financial condition of the country, and the financial condition is dependent on salaries and other charges of government. They have been increased 25% and 40% by these same individuals. Have all the other civil servants' salaries been increased and handed out motor cars? That affects the financial position of the country. But as long as you do not want to hear it, I will wait until the Financial Report comes in and we will have it in style. I have registered my protest against this trip to Ottawa and I will sit down.

Mr. KeoughIt is some time since I have spoken at any length and some friends are beginning to wonder why. Since we have recently had so much emphasis put upon the need to vote rather than to eat, some are perhaps beginning to wonder if I have retreated to the position where I am prepared to be content with two square meals a day for all instead of three, and with a suit of clothes somewhat patched and a roof that leaks just a little. The contrary is the case. I have been

hearing so much about the brightness and prosperity which lie ahead that I have been seriously thinking of upping the minimum requirements to three square meals a day, a mug-up going to bed, and two pair of pants with every suit.

I support the motion, because I cannot see how in conscience I can do anything else — notwithstanding all the ranting and roaring like true Newfoundlanders that has gone on and all the hysterics that have been engaged in.

For all of us this is the year of consummation of a most important mission. For all Newfoundlanders it may well prove to be a year of momentous decision — of conclusions as will determine the shape of things to come in this island for longer than we all shall live. We have come upon an opportunity unique in the history of empire, unique, perhaps, in the history of the world, without passion, without prejudice, without fear, to take the measure of what our resources in natural wealth and manhood will permit us to rise to — and then to shape the future to the best advantage.

At least this once, I hope, the people of Newfoundland will be advised of all the facts, and then will be left to decide for themselves. I hope nobody with an axe to grind will try to hold the noses of Newfoundlanders and try to cram down their throats the particular form of government that he wants as a grindstone.... God grant that we shall measure up in this day and generation to the making of the most of this greatest opportunity that has ever come to any people. I can hardly imagine that any man or group of men would be so utterly foul as to want to interpose his or their private plans between this opportunity and the making of the most of it. I can hardly conceive that any would deliberately and with malice aforethought, seek the accomplishment of their own designs at the sacrifice of all the moment offers. But if such were to rise, they could be eternally certain that their memories would be cursed forever more by every succeeding generation of Newfoundlanders....

This Convention has a most urgent and essen-

¹H.A. Winter.

²A.J. Walsh.

³James Winter.

⁴These accusations enraged Mr. Justice Harry Winter and others, who brought a libel suit against Mr. Cashin. The jury was unable to agree on a verdict.