

a living by working, week after week, month after month, year after year, cutting wood to get a mere living. That's not an easy thing, but to these people who have had such a dreary existence, this was a great light, and they rejoiced in the fact that an industry was started. It had a very checkered beginning, but it did do good. And now this morning I was shattered in my hopes for these people to hear that this company has gone into liquidation. It is something more than another company gone broke. The coast is left stranded at a late part of the season, when the fishery was very, very poor, so poor that there was nothing left on the coast as a result of the fishery, or practically nothing. All supplies for the winter depended upon the industries, upon Goose Bay and the Labrador Development Company,<sup>1</sup> and upon the government. There is very little upon the coast by way of groceries and supplies to carry them through the winter.... The people were depending, on this part of the coast, upon the work that would be given them by the Labrador Development Company. In that area the population is 400 people, 165 children. In the immediate vicinity there are 500 people, another 160 children — north and south there is a large population coming to the Labrador Development Company to look for work rather than depend upon the government to supply them with dole. Even before the fishery stopped as many as 200 men poured into Port Hope Simpson in the hope of getting work. The usual quota of the company is 150 people; that is quite a strain upon the supplies — 250 men calling upon them. Consequently the food had been all used up even before the boats left the coast for the year. They are in pretty desperate need.

I am not in a position to make any pronouncement upon what has been done — upon the wisdom or justice of the company's going into liquidation. This is how it strikes me. Here is a company cutting wood in Labrador; there is plenty of wood, plenty of labour, the market is open, prices are generous, and this company is not absolutely broke. They have some credits on the other side of the Atlantic in sterling. They have applied to the government for some help. As I understand it the government has not seen fit to grant their request — a mere \$200,000 — to enable them to carry on, to send supplies in and

to engage all these people. The government has not seen fit to help them out to this extent. There is one thing certain: the government will have to do something. They will have to send a supply boat to feed these people. There are about 900 of them in that particular area — north and south of that many others depend upon the company and now they have nothing to depend on but relief. The people cannot be allowed to starve this winter. It will cost \$150,000 to get supplies in. I wonder if it would not be better for the government to find some way whereby they might help this company out by sending in supplies and engage those men, enable them earn as much as \$300,000 — unless of course this company is not reliable. I understand this company is composed of genuine, reliable, honest men of this country — no question about that — this company is in good circumstances, or would be but for the inconvertibility of sterling. I do not see why the government is not able to tide them over, let the company send in supplies and let the men earn an honest living rather than be humiliated by going on the dole as they will have to. Some may say that is not a matter for the Convention. That is not the way I see it. It is the job of the Convention to consider that there is another one of our industries not going well at this particular time.

I do not want to be unkind, but it seems rather strange that the Economic Committee could write such an optimistic report when, while they were writing it, our most northerly industry was going into liquidation and our most southerly industry — the mining operation at St. Lawrence — has been closed during the summer for want of hydro-electric power. That is a thing which shows there is a very vital weakness in the economy and its inability to work up industries, the shortage of hydro-electric power. It is portrayed now in the bigger industries. Our most northerly industry is going into liquidation, there is our labour leader telling us that the camps are just about finished cutting, and we have been reminded that so many of our men rely upon that cut to tide them over; in view of these facts, I cannot but help thinking that the Committee should have shaded in a few dark outlines and shown the people that everything is not rosy and there are some discouraging things about it. There are some encouraging things about it too.

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:61.