

When we came into St. John's we saw the Commissioner for Natural Resources as I found out he was responsible for this campaign. I lit into him, as I was interested in co-ops; I was on the Labrador when Dr. Grenfell put one there, and I had studied it in both Bristol and Glasgow. The outcome was Mr. Gorvin asked me if I would take up fieldwork. I said, "Yes, you give me October and September cheques for Chelsea and Hant's Harbour and I'll go over and form up a committee in both places, hire a truck and go to Carbonear, buy wholesale and distribute the whack for each month, then the people will understand what co-operation means, and no other way. You'll find out the six cents will feed the larger family and the smaller family will be a lot better off." He told me he could not do it, he was trying it out on the south coast. There it ended, and the hellish conditions went on until the war came and I went away. Mr. Gorvin informed me the government was behind the co-op. I said, "Yes, but a long way behind."

Why in heaven's name was this colossal fraud worked on us? All the investigations, all the promises, and here was a chance for a people to help themselves. We had the men who were prepared to work without a cent. I wanted nothing, only the dole I was getting, for it was a pet scheme of mine; but if I was prepared to give up leading the people, a job would be found for me. No thank you! I don't take the nod. Our credit system was "an unmitigated evil, breeding dishonesty, extravagance, luxury (mind you), carelessness, recklessness regarding the future, want of energy, laziness and dependence among large sections of a naturally well-endowed hardy and able people."¹ That's the charge, but what did they do to stop it? Sent around a baritone troupe, put everything into the peddler's hands, so in January he could count his profits until next January. You can be sure nobody was going to get an outfit under these conditions. I have always said if the mother country had had our interests at heart, she would never have given this form of government, but it seems like we have got into the old girl's hair too often, and this generation was going to take it and like it. I have stated, and I'm still of the opinion, the least we should have

had was a modified form of North of Ireland status, where we would have had a say in our local affairs. If our politicians were as black as they were painted by those titled nincompoops, then could you cure it by taking away from us the only school we could learn in? It's like examining a schoolboy and finding out he was behind in his grades and, because that was the case, closing up the school. Can you tell me that a country that had come up through parliamentary procedure for 1,000 years, and had a parliamentary history so juicy it would make ours look like the Lord's Prayer in comparison, now that they had a chance to put in a normal school and teach us, what did they do? They closed up the little red schoolhouse of democracy we had, and for that and the treatment we have had for the last two years, I'll never forgive a Britisher. Had they come in, given us the right to manage our own local affairs, adjusted our currency to our markets by putting in a national bank, and taking the load off the fishermen who had to carry the weight of selling in a cheap currency market and buying a dear money market — we, the fishermen, were ground down by those two opposing forces, aided and abetted by an obstinate limey bureaucracy. We have to get divorced from the dear Canadian dollar. If markets can't be found in Canada for our products, then we have got to have a currency either tied to the pound where we sell, and where we can buy when things get to normal, or else with the US, where we can buy and sell. This must be the duty of whatever government is elected, Commission or responsible, if confederation is turned down. We cannot go on turning cheap drachmas, lira and other cheap currency into dear Canadian dollars, and only buy for cash in one market. Remember it's not going to be a seller's market all the time, and we'll have to trim our sails to suit the breeze. Barter will be coming more and more. Had we turned to barter in '33, things would not have been so hard with us. Ten years from now you are going to find a different world.

Paragraph 634, subsection 3. "It is essential if this object is to be achieved that the country would be given a rest from party politics for a period of years...."² In other words, close up the

¹*Newfoundland Royal Commission 1933 Report* (Cmd. 4480, 1933), p. 80, quoting Mr. Adolf Nielsen, Superintendent of Fisheries.

²*Newfoundland Royal Commission 1933 Report* (Cmd. 4480, 1933).