

industry.

As a result of this recommendation, authority was eventually given for Mr. Oliver's visit, which culminated in the report above referred to, and which confirms the contention of the Board and the opinions expressed by all those whose advice has been sought and who, it is believed, are in a position to speak with some authority on the subject, namely, that the tourist industry in this country is capable of successful development.

It is now the urgent request of the Tourist Board that the recommendations contained in the report should be implemented as quickly as possible, particularly with regard to the setting up of a new government tourist organization. Here let me say that it is the feeling of the Board that the head of this organization should occupy a position analogous to that of the chairman of the Fisheries Board, or the manager of the Newfoundland Railway.

I have been requested by the members of the Board ... to set forth their position with regard to the future of the Board's activities. Just prior to the outbreak of the recent war, the matter of the appointment of a full-time director, and the general expansion of the activities of the Board were under active discussion with the Hon. Sir Wilfred Woods who was at that time Commissioner for Public Utilities. When the war intervened it was agreed that for the duration of hostilities tourist expenditure should be kept to a minimum ... but that the organizations in St. John's and New York should be kept together with a view to expansion to take advantage of the anticipated post-war travel demand. Two years ago the opportunity occurred to secure the services as director of Mr. C.C. Duley, who has been associated with the Board since its inception.... Mr. Duley became the Board's director, and since that time, largely due to his efforts, an intensive study of tourist possibilities in selected localities has been made and various recommendations forwarded to the Commissioner. However, no indication of the government's attitude towards tourist development has been forthcoming, and no

policy in this connection has been announced. The members of the Board, some of whom have served for 20 years, now feel that they are entitled to a definite pronouncement from the government as to its policy with regard to the development of the tourist industry....

As you know, the members of the Board are all engaged in businesses of various kinds and it is therefore impossible for them to devote more than a certain portion of their time to this work. If, however, the development which we hope to see takes place, we are all prepared to do anything we can to be of assistance to the Government in this undertaking.

(signed) W.A. Reid, Chairman

That is the letter and I make no excuse for reading it at this length because the answer is all the more worthy of condemnation.... The answer to the letter was in this form.

I should be glad if you would refer to your letter of the 6th June, concerning the report made by Mr. Douglas R. Oliver upon tourist possibilities in Newfoundland.

Your letter and Mr. Oliver's report were considered at a recent meeting of the Commission of Government and I have been directed to inform you that, while the government believes the tourist industry in Newfoundland is capable of development, it does not propose to incur expenditure in the erection of accommodation for tourists, as it is felt that this is a matter for private enterprise.

The need for additional roads is appreciated and progress is being made in this direction as quickly as circumstances will permit.

As you are aware, the government is already making a grant of \$26,000 per annum to the Newfoundland Tourist Development Board. No doubt the sums so made available will continue to be expended to the best advantage.

The government is not prepared to establish a new tourist and travel authority.

(signed) J.S. Neill.

(for) Secretary for Public Works.

We look at this programme — this expenditure of \$59 million — and there was not one cent allocated to tourist traffic. It would definitely