

paying more than some of the men were getting on the bases....

I say Newfoundland is entitled to the cancellation of that sterling debt.<sup>1</sup> What does it amount to? Let us look at the debt of Newfoundland to date — external debt; \$72 million against which there is approximately \$8 million in the sinking fund, \$64 million; \$12 million more over there belong to it, \$52 million; \$22 million down in the bank belongs to the people of Newfoundland — down to \$32 million; \$6-7 million that we owe here locally — say \$40 million net national debt. The wealthiest country in the world per capita, less than a \$150 a head. Let us take the other countries. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, for bringing in parts of the Financial Report, but I can't help it. This is an historic time in the country. And I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I'm not yet prepared to accept the position offered me indirectly some time ago, of Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons in Ottawa. What is the position? \$40 million debt — \$150 a head. We go up to our friends in Ottawa. What's their position? \$1,380 a head. We go across to Uncle Sam, \$1,800 and odd a head. We go across to the United Kingdom, over \$1,900 a head.... Now that is the position, and going off begging, knowing that this country is self-supporting. I maintain that if this country is self-supporting, it's only humiliating itself to go to outsiders and say, "What are you going to offer for the privilege of taking over our customs revenue and government?" I would not ask them. It is time enough if we are hard up, particularly in view of that scurrilous attack made on Newfoundland by the *Ottawa Journal*:

Reuters Despatch reports that special Newfoundland mission is coming to Ottawa shortly to ascertain on what terms Newfoundland might enter Canadian federation as tenth province, have given rise to considerable editorial comment across the Dominion. For most part little enthusiasm is shown the proposal and general Canadian trend of opinion is that Newfoundland, shorn of wartime prosperity is looking around for

means of eluding bankruptcy. *Ottawa Journal* wrote: Britain's oldest colony is reported as desirous joining Canadian federation. It would be more accurate to say that Newfoundland regards confederation with Canada as a lesser evil than reverting to her former status as a British colony or becoming an appendage of the United States like an Atlantic Alaska. The *Journal* said, "Newfoundland would bring Canada as her dowry a debt of something like \$100 million."

In my opinion, what is contained in that despatch emanated from Newfoundland. It is interesting to note that it was just about the time Mr. Job's delegation was over talking to the Commission and we had incorporated in Mr. Job's resolution that we were going to send a delegation to Ottawa, that this thing was published in the *Ottawa Journal*. The *Ottawa Journal* is the mouthpiece of the Canadian government. Grattan O'Leary is the editor. It is one of the three papers read by Mr. Mackenzie King every morning — the *Montreal Gazette*, the *Ottawa Journal* and the *Winnipeg Free Press*. We have a distinguished gentleman from the embassy here with a watching brief who will be able to confirm what I say.

I have shown that the Commission government was brought about by skulduggery. I state now that the Commission government was brought about by bribery, and corruption indirectly. Let us trace the members thereof, since its inception. The first three Newfoundland commissioners were two members of that government, the Prime Minister and the present Commissioner for Public Health and Welfare, and the late Mr. Howley.<sup>2</sup> At that time, Mr. Emerson stated publicly that he had expected to become Commissioner for Justice. However, Mr. Howley was pushed over...

**Mr. Chairman** I must draw your attention to the fact that we cannot permit personal references here.

**Mr. Cashin** When the first Commissioner for Justice,<sup>3</sup> was transferred as Registrar of the Supreme Court, the new Commissioner was Attorney General at the time of the passing of that

<sup>1</sup>The following section is taken from the recording of the proceedings.

<sup>2</sup>F.C. Alderdice, J.C. Puddester, and W.R. Howley.

<sup>3</sup>W.R. Howley.