

poor business. In these few remarks I propose to touch on the Education Report only, and to review the items discovered under Transportation and Communications. The remark on education is this: it has, I believe, been accepted by a majority of us that this one item of government expenditure must be of the order of \$3 million — \$4 million.¹ That is one item which must go into our second table to be spent on education.

Let us turn now to the report immediately under consideration. In my view we can add certain items to our projected government expenditure table. First of all radio service — \$25,000; secondly, posts and telegraphs — \$1.5 million — \$1.75 million; roads and bridges — \$2.5 million — \$3 million; railway — \$12 million — \$13 million; Gander and the tourists. On these last mentioned I am unwilling to say what our expenditure will have to be because, as regards Gander, I feel that the position should not be allowed to remain as it is: namely, Newfoundland is giving outside concerns services for which these concerns are only paying an estimated one-half of the cost. We have agreed that this is a matter which will require much more probing before we can say what must go into our expenditure account. Again, on tourists, we will have to make up our minds where we are going and then estimate our expenditure with its counterpart of the estimated return to the total economy. Before leaving this short sum-up, sir, I would ask you to note two things. First, that although the items at present about which we are able to speak definitely are very few, the country ought to know that within the next few weeks as the bulk of the work is done many more items will be added quickly. I say that in fairness to the members of the Convention and because I feel that the public generally would like to know that that is so. And secondly, you will note that I have neglected for the moment the form in which we are to cover the expenditure for these government services — that is to say, how we are going to collect the funds to pay for the services.²

As regards broadcasting, Mr. Chairman, I was impressed with the need to get on with the expansion of our present services. In a country such as ours where the people do not live in large centres,

radio was discovered for our benefit. We ought to back those in charge of broadcasting not only with our most helpful criticism, but with the necessary funds to get a full Newfoundland coverage, on the same principle and for the same reasons as we have satisfied ourselves that we ought to push to the limit the purely formal education of the country.

Our discussion of posts and telegraphs appeared to turn on the question of the adequacy of the wages paid to postal employees, and at the same time to an extension of the services. On the question of an equitable distribution of wealth, I have a closed mind. My mind cannot tolerate a general position where wealth is concentrated into the hands of a minority. We should be discovering ways and means of seeing to it that everyone produces and that wealth is shared. However I say frankly that we ought not to go off half-cocked. Whether wages paid in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs are high, low, or fair in relation to other government services, I do not know, because I have not carefully studied the position. How a postal telegraph employee's wages in the various communities compare with the average person's wages I do not know. If the courier to whom Mr. Burry referred is doing a necessary job, and that job takes a great deal of his time and puts him out of production in other spheres, then he should be paid a wage which will put him in as favourable a position as the rest of the people with whom he lives. However, to refer to a \$50 a year payment in some cases as a salary of \$4 per month, and as shameful, is not necessarily being realistic. For example, a community of fishermen wants a lightkeeper at the approach of their harbour. They cannot afford to pay a man a living wage for just doing a half-hour's work a day, so they say to someone of their number who lives on the point: "Keep your eye on that light, fix it up if anything happens to put it out on the odd occasion. This will take some of your time away from farming, carpentry, etc., and we'll pay you for that lost time, i.e. \$50 a year." This question will come up time and time again before our discussions have finished. It is right that it should. I have offered my comments in the hope that they might be of some value in helping us all to keep a sense of perspective. I repeat, I am all

¹The following section is taken from the recording of the proceedings.

²The section taken from the recording ends here.