

years from now. We want to make them independent. A few years ago we had 8,000 on the dole, today they are not, thank God. The same thing applies. If these people were given \$10,000 to build a place they should pay something back when they can. It makes a man independent. You can go on with this forever.... We have farmers working all their lives and never got five cents from anyone.

Mr. Hollett This matter of land settlement was started in the first place as a measure of relief. People were taken from the seaport towns where they could not get fish, and if they did they could not sell it or get any price for it. It was not a case of putting a man on the land and expecting him to pay the whole amount back. The real complaint is that they took the fisherman, who was not a farmer, and cleared some land and gave him some seed and he grew some vegetables. Then they said to him, "Now you are established", and cast him out on the open market to dispose of his own produce without any assistance whatever, and consequently he had no means of improving his existence. I am inclined to think that this agricultural business, as far as Newfoundland is concerned, is as much a local industry as a factory. To that end I want to quote some figures which were not included in this report.

Under the heading of plug tobacco, cut tobacco and cigarettes, we find that the cost of the material imported to manufacture these articles last year was \$1,109,571. The excise paid by the people who manufacture this amounted to \$1,057,567. If that manufactured article had paid the regular rate of duty the government could have received \$1,818,000, whereas they only received \$1,807,000 in excise. You may call that a loss to the government of \$11,000. There were engaged in the manufacture about 131 people, and the average wage paid was \$2,250.29, which means of course that that is \$533,323.60 gross coming in to the directors after all wages are paid. I grant there are other overheads which were not taken care of, but this means that the industry was protected to that extent.

Come with me to Brown's Arm in 1940. I went through the settlement and talked to the people, and at least three men had from 100 to 200 barrels of potatoes in the cellar, and I asked why they were keeping them and what they were

asking for them. They said if they got \$1.50 a barrel for these potatoes they would be glad to take it, but they could not get that much. It was easy for me to understand why some of these people were in distress, here they were with all those potatoes in the cellar and they could not sell them. In the meantime potatoes were coming into this country and being consumed. Here you have two local industries, one controlled by a very few people who employed 131 men and women and they are able to pay good wages, comparatively good at least as far as this country is concerned, and can make \$533,000 in profits. Here we have a settlement Brown's Arm, I don't know how many are there (yes, 24 men) and the government had spent \$133,000 to put them there. Don't you think if they are going to talk protective tariffs that these men, on whom the people of this country had to spend \$1,370,000 to rehabilitate, don't you think they should be protected to the extent of making it possible for them to sell their products at a reasonable rate?.... We protect local industries which are handled by a very small number of people and we are sure that their employees shall be paid reasonable wages, and apparently we are sure that the shareholders will make a fair dividend. I have no objection to that but I do have objection to the government spending \$1,370,000 to rehabilitate men and then saying, "Here's your land, and if you can sell your produce OK, if not we can't do anything for you." They should do something to make it possible for these people to make a fair living. Of course, as soon as the war came they went on the bases, and in some of the land settlements today the men are no more farmers now than they were when they fished out of Lamaline or elsewhere.

Mr. Figary Take the case of Midland¹ where 25 families had been settled and 231 acres cleared at a cost of \$120,735.67, which is approximately \$13,000 less than Brown's Arm where 24 families were settled and only 123 acres cleared at a cost of \$133,090.78. What caused the difference of \$13,000 there?

Mr. Butt I can't answer you.

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, I was struck there with the difference in the cost of land clearing. I don't know much about Brown's Arm, but it is easier to clear 20 acres of land in Lourdes than one acre where I am in Trinity South.

¹Volume II:174.