

living index is somewhere here in the files, but owing to the report's being limited there were several details we felt compelled to leave out.

**Mr. Ballam** I must refer back to something Mr. Butt said with regard to TB patients and what happens to them. I had occasion to go into the Sanatorium early last fall, and I happened to meet a gentleman there, whom I understand has since deceased. I refer to Mr. Conrad Fitzgerald. He edited a magazine called *Sunbeams*. It was most interesting and informative. Mr. Fitzgerald told me that one of the big factors in the recurrence of TB was the fact that after a patient is discharged from hospital there is no form of rehabilitation. In other words, he is to all intents and purposes cured, and if he is a fisherman he must go in a boat; if a logger, he must go in the woods. By so doing, he is losing what it took years to build up. Mr. Fitzgerald's idea was that there should be some form of rehabilitation whereby those fishermen coming out of hospital could be looked after until they could rehabilitate themselves to the extent where they could follow their usual vocation....

**Mr. Ashbourne** I agree entirely with Mr. Ballam. This problem should be tied in with our health system. The problem of rehabilitation is one which must be tackled because when a man has suffered from such a disease as TB naturally the whole body is impaired, and it stands to reason that a man cannot undertake strenuous work. I believe such a scheme would be money well spent.

In reply to Mr. Penney, I wish to thank him for his remarks on the report. I would like to say that this matter of arriving at the monthly cost of living index in St. John's is a rather complicated matter as I see it. There has been a discussion on this matter going on; you see letters in the papers. It seems that when the index was started it was set at 100. Staple articles, food and clothing, were placed at certain values and when they advanced other articles were placed on the list. When prices advanced in grocery stores the prices were entered and different calculations were arrived at. They took October 1, 1938 as 100 for these commodities as listed and eventually these figures were arrived at. I have not changed the figures myself....

**Mr. Penney** Do you not believe that the cost of living over the last decade has been lifted a great

deal more?

**Mr. Ashbourne** Certain items no doubt have.

**Mr. Fudge** It is made up for St. John's; I do not know if the department inquired into the cost of living in the outports. I see nothing about it. I take it for granted that the cost of living may be higher in St. John's than in the outports. I suppose that is the reason for giving able-bodied relief in St. John's at \$11.25 per head and in the outports at \$5 per head. I suppose the cost is not so high?

**Mr. Smallwood** What is the Federation of Labour index?

**Mr. Fudge** 210.7.

**Mr. McCarthy** I think it is 215 now.

**Mr. Smallwood** The government figures are notoriously wrong, everyone knows that.

**Mr. Ashbourne** In answer to Mr. Fudge, I do not think they have the cost of living compiled for any outports.

**Mr. Fudge** The people on poor or sick relief are expected to live on \$5 — they must think the cost of living is lower in the outports.

**Mr. Vardy** I would say it is not because the cost of living is lower, but because the outports are far away from the source of government.

**Mr. Bailey** I have been paying close attention here tonight to what the members have been talking about and I have also noticed the amounts paid to the different returned men. I wondered about it. I wondered why such a difference was made in the different classes. All the men took a chance on going over there. I do not know who is responsible for these pensions. I have before me a letter which I received from a returned man and which I shall read: "At the age of 35 I enlisted in 1939 with the Forestry Unit, later transferring to the Royal Air Force with air sea rescue and air crew, Bomber Command. In June, 1940, I took part in evacuating troops from Dunkirk and France by small boats. During the Battle of Britain I flew as air-crew, also made 49 trips over occupied territory up to February 7, 1945, when we were shot down by enemy aircraft and I received a fractured spine and fractured ribs. I spent six months in hospital in Holland and England and upon arrival in this country in September, 1945, I was again hospitalised for removal of parts of ribs. My pension has been reduced to 20% — \$28 per month — for wife and family of three in spite of the fact that I have spent about three months in bed with medical attention