

vantage. While we have to import labour and management to help run our big industries we are not giving our own people the money returns that these outside people are getting.

[The committee recessed for 15 minutes]¹

Mr. Ashbourne I was speaking about the capital necessary to help develop our industries, and about the scientific experience we needed for our men. I thought about mentioning the fact that we were going to have a technical college or institute as a result of the extension of the men's vocational training scheme which will be, I hope, available in the future for any young men who wish to get some training and experience to equip them to take up these necessary occupations. We have natural resources to develop, but our lack of available capital, I am afraid, may interfere with their development, which will perhaps react upon our ability to take full advantage of our maritime position.

As regards the matter of a mercantile marine mentioned in the report, I think we have in the past lost quite a bit of money, which might have gone into our economy, by not having such a fleet, but on the other hand we are a small country, and we cannot be reasonably expected to provide services as if we had a population twice or three times the size. I believe we are underpopulated and our present transportation system and highroads could serve a far greater number of people. We are a small country, but yet it seems that we cannot provide full employment for all of our people even at the present time. Surely this problem should not defy solution. If we are to survive, this should command the earnest consideration of all of us. We want full employment in order to realise full production. Our main sources of wealth come from the land and the sea. We have to study the problem of production as well as the problem of distribution; and while we want to try and get the maximum production, we also want to try and provide full employment for our people, for these are complementary and both very important.

We hope that the world's complex distribution system will not break down. Our national economy needs to be kept at a maximum not only in times of war, but also in times of peace. We have been aided by scientific invention and research to harness many of the forces of nature and

thus have been able to procure greater wealth from the land and the sea. We are told that our power to produce wealth has increased thirty-fold in the past 50 years. But to bring production and distribution to an equilibrium is a complicated and extremely difficult problem.

What is our dollar worth today? It has been said here already that the current index, or yardstick, was a barrel of flour for a quintal of fish. Today a barrel of flour is \$20. The fisherman, who is the backbone of Newfoundland, has to get a barrel of flour a month, which means he needs \$240 a year for one item of food — flour. The cost of living index continues to rise and the question, is when will it start to fall? People are looking with anxious hearts to the time when the cost of living will start to come down, for we cannot expect big prices for fish. The big prices we got during the war years will not continue. When Iceland, Norway and other fish-producing countries did not catch the fish, it was a matter practically of transportation for us — we could sell all the fish we could get providing we could get the transportation to carry it to the markets. When these countries get into full production, we shall not be able to get the prices for fish which we have been getting in the past. This whole problem of cost of living is a very, very important one and really enters into our economic picture.

I have spoken about the tariff. I do not want to belabour the question. I consider that in 1942 Newfoundland became technically self-supporting and for five years now has been self-supporting.... I believe we need a planned economy, not a hit-and-miss policy.

We have heard just recently from the north of the storms which have ravaged our shores. We know that the fishermen have to meet the storms and stress of the sea and of life. We have been very sorry to hear of the destruction which has been caused by the high seas and by the loss to these men of their stages and gear and equipment which is vital and necessary. Our sympathy goes out to these men in their loss and I hope that something may be done to assist these men to recoup that loss, or to encourage them to build up their fishing gear and property. I hope and trust that the intense economic storms and depressions that have swept Newfoundland in the past will be a thing of the past.

¹This recess was called because only a single stenographer was on duty.