

the final report of the Fisheries Committee.

Mr. Chairman The Steering Committee will take your suggestion under consideration.

Mr. Hollett Before putting the question, I would like to ask what exactly is meant by a "motion to receive"? The only things I have learned from that report are that we are self-supporting; that the Commission of Government has done an excellent job under the circumstances; that the wartime economy has brought us temporary prosperity; but that we are going to have a pretty tough time. All of us here who are attempting to study Newfoundland have studied other documents besides the Chadwick-Jones report and if we are to receive it, I would suggest we file it away amongst other documents; put it up against some other documents, or some other facts which we have had in connection with the economic and financial condition of Newfoundland. Before I can vote intelligently on the motion to receive the Chadwick-Jones report, I would like to know what that motion means.

Mr. Chairman It means nothing more than the formal reception of the report by the Convention. Heretofore it was laid merely on the individual desks. It does not mean you accept it. Is the Convention ready for the question?

[The report was received]

Mr. Smallwood I would like to ask a question in regard to a rumour. Is it true that the committees are not getting replies to some questions asked the government departments, and that some departments have refused point blank to answer some of the questions?

Mr. Chairman From what I understand, the government departments are working assiduously on replies, and some questions have already been answered. In regard to others, all have gone to the various committees whose duty it is to investigate matters under question. I do not think it is true that any department has refused to give information.

Mr. Smallwood It is true of one department, at least.

Mr. Chairman If that committee will report the matter to the Information Committee it will be investigated.

Mr. Smallwood In reference to my questions, I have today received my first reply. It was merely the production of a pamphlet — a matter of reaching up in a cupboard and handing it down.

Mr. Chairman It is going to take some time to get certain answers. I want to tell you that the Information Committee is working continuously, and the committees themselves are not losing any opportunity of obtaining any information.

Mr. Smallwood The point I want to make is in connection with a question tabled in the house; referred then to the Information Committee; approved by the Information Committee; and sent forward to the government department concerned. With the result that an official of the government department concerned appeared before the committee concerned, and stated that the reply was not and would not be forthcoming.

Mr. Chairman We have heard nothing officially on that point....

Mr. Cashin I am speaking on behalf of Mr. Fudge, chairman of the Forestry Committee. There was one particular question we put to the government and which went through in the ordinary way: we asked if any applications were on file asking for certain leases or timber rights on the Labrador. As regards timber rights, we were told by Mr. Turner or Mr. McLellan who represented the department that these questions they were not permitted to answer. And I can tell you the reason. We know that two or three applications were in the hands of the government.

Mr. Smallwood Major Cashin knows. I do not know. If applications are now pending for grants, mineral rights, water power rights, I want to know it.

Mr. Cashin In reply to Mr. Smallwood, when we make our report, we will tell him....

Mr. Chairman Before the Information Committee, we had Mr. Walter Marshall, Secretary for Finance, and he assured us all necessary information would be supplied. The position is, as I explained some time ago when we presented the Report of the Steering Committee, that information necessary to the work of the Convention would be sought; and it was the intention that all questions should be submitted to the Information Committee, that this Committee would examine the questions to ensure that there was no duplication and that only relevant questions would be asked; that a certain restraint would be exercised in order that there would not be an undue burden placed upon the government departments. If every type of question has to be answered and answered in detail, not alone will it paralyse the