

seaworthy could go in the offshore fishery either as draggers or dory fishermen. It's balderdash that a man cannot change to another kind of fishing. What is there to learn about it? In two years any man who has his health and strength can change from an expert trap fisherman to a trawl fisherman, and I guess in a month to an expert dragger fisherman. For he knows this time he has got to be helped, I know. But if a man has a schooner of 60 tons and upward and is well-found, there's no need for him today to put her on the auction block. If he has the will and is willing to learn, of course; then perhaps in a few years he can look back and say those three bad years were the best thing that ever happened to me, and to the country as well.

I believe in this report and can only say that in planning it is not bold enough. It smacks too much of the past, it holds too much to the old traditions. In fact it has the old ship of state dragging her chains behind her. She has broken out her anchors, but the Finance Committee forgot to heave them in. Let us stow the chain in the lockers and go ahead full speed.

In referring to the merchant marine, the genial delegate from Bonavista Centre spoke about the difference of opinion between myself and the Hon. Mr. Job about the powering of ships. I wish to congratulate Mr. Job and his associates on the pioneer step they have taken, and I'm sure they are setting an example that will vindicate both myself and Mr. Crosbie in our opinions. I refer to the installing of diesel engines in the *Sable Island*. I'll make a guess this innovation alone will mean a long step forward in the coming maritime age of this country, and it will mean that Water Street will once again be seen at its best, from a launch that is, and not from a taxi. The trade of this country will be carried in our own bottoms. The firms along the streets will once again be mercantile firms and not calico vendors. Had the government done what the firm of Job Brothers and Company is doing today, with the fleet of ships it had, with the services of a diesel electrical engineer, plus their new shipping, both the docks and the coastal services would be in the black now. This could have been done during the last 25 years.

In conclusion, in the light of the information

before me, I can only come to the opinion that this country is not only self-supporting now, but was always self-supporting. The only reason for the hard straits we have been in has been the human element, which reflects on all of us from the government down to the last citizen. We've had the brawn, the capital and the resources, but seem to have been lacking in the brains or the vision. After my extensive study of the natural resources of our country, in my comparison with those of other lands, particularly Iceland and Norway, I can only come to the conclusion that in view of the way our affairs and resources have been mishandled so far, it's a wonder to me not that she survived, but how she survived. As I said before, the Finance Committee has only broken the anchors from the ground. Let's haul in the chains and full speed ahead.

[The committee rose and reported progress]

Mr. Higgins I beg to move the resolution, notice of which was given, and which was included in the order paper today. I give the undertaking, in case there is any doubt about it, that if the motion is passed, it will not be discussed or debated until the motion that Mr. Bradley has given today is debated.

[The Secretary read the motion of which Mr. Higgins had given notice.¹ After some procedural debate, the motion was deferred]

Mr. Higgins I would like to give notice of motion, sir. I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following resolution:

That this Convention request His Excellency the Governor in Commission that paragraph 2 of the National Convention Act, 1946, be amended whereby provision may be made that any member or members of the Convention incapacitated by reason of illness from attending sessions of the Convention may have his or their vote recorded in his or their absence, provided he or they have signed and executed the proper instrument to give effect to this purpose. Such right to vote by proxy shall be exercised only during the debate on forms of government and the recommendations to the United Kingdom government arising therefrom to be put before the people at a national referendum.

[The Convention adjourned]

¹ Above, p. 685.