

**Mr. Cashin** Yes, that type of paper is not made in Newfoundland.

**Mr. Smallwood** *Newsprint* and fine paper.

**Mr. Cashin** It does not mean our newsprint.

**Mr. Smallwood** ....Thank God we have got two good mills in Newfoundland. They are on the upward trend, and running at full capacity. One is definitely going to increase its capacity 70,000-odd tons a year, and it seems pretty sure that in the next two or three years the price is going to look pretty good, but I don't want to delude myself into the belief that for the next eight or ten years the price is going to hold at anything like the \$83 or \$84 a ton that it is today. I wonder if Major Cashin can tell us what the price has been in the last four or five months?

**Mr. Cashin** During the last 40 years it has averaged about \$60 a ton.

**Mr. Smallwood** What has it been in the last four or five months?

**Mr. Cashin** Well it's \$84 a ton now, from about \$40 in 1939. During the war we had difficulty owing to lack of shipping, the paper was rationed, papers were smaller, but now everything is open wide and Canada is producing over four million tons a year. If the price goes down in Newfoundland it will go down everywhere, so that it will affect all the world.

**Mr. Smallwood** That's the point I am trying to get at. The sale of all this paper is at market price, and that is what we will get. The price may go up or down. These are the only questions I want to ask Major Cashin, but I do want to say a word on this little supplementary report brought in today. This concerns the district I come from more than anywhere else in the country — it deals with the three-mile limit. I remember a speech given by Mr. Ewbank when he was Commissioner, he deals with this three-mile limit....<sup>1</sup> Do I understand that there is no three-mile limit left in White Bay?

**Mr. Cashin** It looks like that.

**Mr. Smallwood** He says that the whole of the east side of White Bay is private property. You have parts of this island, and I speak with personal knowledge of one part of Bonavista Bay, where there is not a scrap of timber left on the three-mile limit, and yet on that stretch of coast you have quite a number of saw mills, and you

have the utterly maddening situation that the people are without timber on the three-mile limit. Yet flanking that three-mile limit, is fine first-class timber owned by private companies, which they got into their hands by grant or purchase or some other way. I notice that the Committee say that they have received numerous representations from certain sections of the country about this matter. I have no doubt that many of these were from Bonavista North, Gambo and other places around there.

**Mr. Ballam** The Humber as well.

**Mr. Smallwood** That's a sad story, but we won't go into that just now. I know that I am only wasting breath, because we are not the government of the country and can't do anything about it. But the people who are suffering from this would not think very much of us if we skimmed it over with just a passing word. Some of us here may be in the next government of the country, I know Major Cashin hopes he will be, and I know I hope I am.

**Mr. Cashin** Glad to hear that you are converted!

**Mr. Smallwood** No, I am not converted, I always wanted our own government back. Something has to be done. Out of that \$34 million accumulated surplus that the government has we are going to have to lash out \$1 million in the next year or two, to buy back from Bowaters and AND and other private owners, that timber, and make it available to the small saw mills in various parts of this island. I think when Major Cashin brings in his Finance Report he had better put that down in his budget.

**Mr. Cashin** Does that mean that Mr. Smallwood is admitting that we are going to have responsible government?

**Mr. Smallwood** Well, the kind of government I want includes responsible government. The people have to have timber as much as we need breath, and we had better get alive to that fact. I am sure the people who sent these letters to you and me, Major Cashin, don't expect that we can do anything about it, and they won't blame us or this Convention. But so long as they know that we have it in the front of our mind that it has got to be taken care of, that's all we can do.

**Mr. Cashin** We will put that in our first manifesto!

<sup>1</sup>R.B. Ewbank, *Public Affairs in Newfoundland: Addresses by R.B. Ewbank, C.S.I., C.I.E., Commissioner for Natural Resources Newfoundland 1936-1939* (Cardiff, 1939).