

undeniable facts. It was the job of the Finance Committee to ascertain the standing of our country, and viewing the handicaps under which they laboured, I think we have been reasonably successful. We distorted no figures, we neither enlarged or lessened the facts of things as we found them, and we came to our conclusions because there were no other conclusions at which we could honestly arrive. As the report shows, our ultimate findings were first that Newfoundland was self-supporting, and that finding is still unchallenged — it is a proven fact. Our second conclusion was that this report showed that we would remain so in the foreseeable future. No arguments have been produced to prove or even indicate the contrary....

The impression has been created that the future of this country must necessarily be limited to the figures forecast in this report. For instance, we allow for future revenues of approximately \$30 million per year. This does not mean that our revenues may not far exceed this amount. And for the same reason, the amounts which we have estimated as available for old age pensions and other social services may be far in excess of the figures we have given. Indeed ... I would hazard the guess that undreamed of prosperity awaits this country. And why do I say this? Because of something which is only briefly touched on in the report, an asset which we have not included in our estimate of revenue. I refer to Newfoundland-Labrador.... I now make another forecast and it is this: that if a Newfoundland government is ever in a position to capitalise on our Labrador possession, she will in less than ten years be, for her size and population, the richest little country in the world. But why have we not heard more about the Labrador? Simply because it is not in the interests of those who want to exploit our territory to advertise the fact. They are keeping very quiet about it all.

Mr. Chairman, I realise that the discussions on this Economic Report have gone far over the time we thought would be necessary. However, realising the circumstances under which this report was introduced and the varying political sentiments which are held by delegates, a prolonged and bitter debate was perhaps all that could be expected. As chairman, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to each individual member of our Committee for his help and co-operation in the

compiling of the facts. Also do I thank the various other committees for the valuable information which their various reports made available to us.... Our work is finished and it remains for the delegates to accept our report or reject it.

I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

[The Convention recessed to 8 pm.]

Mr. ChairmanMr. Hollett the other day requested certain information from the High Commissioner of Canada. In conformity with that request, a letter was addressed to the High Commissioner, to which the following reply has been received:

Capt. W. Gordon Warren, RA.,
Secretary of the National Convention,
Colonial Building,
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 18 in which you advise me that you have been requested by the Chairman of the National Convention to enquire from us if it would be possible to procure copies of the official publications set out in Appendix XV of the Summary of Proceedings of the talks between a Committee of the Canadian Cabinet and a delegation from the Newfoundland National Convention. I have passed on this request to Ottawa and shall keep you advised as soon as I receive further information.

As we have on hand at this Office the publications entitled "Canada From Sea To Sea" and "Canada, 1947," I am taking the liberty of sending to you 100 copies of the former and 40 copies of the latter for the use of the members of the National Convention.

Yours sincerely,

A.E.L. Cannon,

Official Secretary

Office of High Commissioner for Canada

Mr. Smallwood The next order of business is a motion under the name of Mr. Bradley, as follows: "To move that the Convention resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider and discuss the proposals received on November 6 from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada." Mr. Bradley, as most people know, is suffering from a very bad cold and has handed me this letter: