

to conserve Labrador.

Mr. Higgins I wonder if the committee would consider rising now and sitting tonight, and then probably tomorrow we will be able to finish this report....

[The committee of the whole adjourned until 8 pm]

Mr. Vardy Mr. Chairman, as there were several complaints about the Education Report when it was discussed in committee, I suggest that the Forestry Report be read section by section so that the contents can be better digested.

[The Asst. Secretary read from the report.]

Mr. Smallwood With regard to paragraph 1, I wonder if Mr. Cashin could tell us the number of square miles of timber held?

Mr. Cashin 22,000 square miles of timber area in the whole country by the two companies, including the water surface within those areas.

Mr. Smallwood What does that mean and how did they get their timber areas?

Mr. Cashin Most of it was held on 99-year leases and could not well be changed while the leases are in existence, but many of the leases came into possession of the Grand Falls Company¹ through purchase either from the Reid Newfoundland Company, under the railway deal of 1898², or from private individuals, including Mr. H.J. Crowe, who had several pieces of timber lands in those areas and sold his rights to the Grand Falls people after the commencement of the development in 1905. The rate of \$2 per square mile was the annual fee paid for the fee simple areas and this was part of the terms of the leases.

Mr. Smallwood It is stated in the 4th paragraph of the report that timber areas are licensed for 99 years. Is that statutory and unchangeable?

Mr. Cashin It is statutory. Probably you might remember in 1931 action was taken because some people had not complied with the terms of their leases and they lost out.

Mr. Smallwood How does that compare with the Crown land leases in Canada and in the United States?

Mr. Cashin Take the province of Quebec for example, the Crown gets \$1.65 per cord stumpage. There have been cases in Quebec where the government sold outright to big com-

panies at high prices, but generally the charge is \$1.65 per cord stumpage or \$1.65 per square foot of forest. A good square mile of timber land should have 3,500 cords of wood for each square mile of forest.

Mr. Smallwood Would Mr. Cashin be able to say definitely if that is unchangeable?

Mr. Cashin My opinion is yes, but I have not checked on it.

Mr. Crosbie What is the natural reforestation per year in Newfoundland?

Mr. Cashin Grand Falls has been operating for over 40 years and has not been recut since. It is generally known in Canada to be 60 years.

Mr. Crosbie I understand that 3% of the total growth is the figure roughly estimated for reforestation in Newfoundland. If that is so, there must be a million cords of wood dying on its feet.

Mr. Cashin We discussed that matter at our meetings, and decided that if the natural regrowth is about 50 years, something should be done in order to guard against possible denudation of timber resources. Whilst we were getting information about this sort of thing, we also learned what was being done to protect the forests from fires. The railway is spending \$500,000 to convert coal burning locomotives into oil burners to prevent bush fires.

Mr. Ashbourne I notice that there is around \$50,000 paid for granted property in rentals, and I was wondering if any of that amount is included for Labrador.

Mr. Cashin I understand there are 30,000 miles under lease on Labrador, so that the total income from rentals there would be \$20,000, and \$30,000 from Newfoundland.

Mr. Harrington What are the paper companies actually paying for what they are getting?

Mr. Cashin The government had no survey records of timber land, and information regarding figures could only be obtained from the companies concerned.

Mr. Higgins drew my attention to an editorial in the *Evening Telegram* this evening which questioned the report's statement of the timber owned by the AND Company. But if you take 30% off for wastage you will find a different story.

¹Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company (AND).

²The Reid Newfoundland Company received land entitlements under contracts signed with the Newfoundland government in 1893, 1898 and 1901 for the operation of the railway.