

industry, the fishery, already shows dangerous signs of slipping back. I am satisfied that most of the prosperity we now have is directly the result of the war, and that this prosperity is almost certain to die away when the full effects of this war die away. I am all in favour of facing the whole truth, and I'm quite sure that it's the whole truth our people want, and nothing less.

Mr. Hollett If I am in order, sir, I would like to ask the last speaker if he expects or wants the people to accept a prophecy which he has just made about dole and about the dark days — if he expects them to take that as the truth? He has said we are in for bad times — we may be. That is a prophecy, but is that the truth? Is that the truth he wants to spread around this country? I maintain it is only a prophecy.

Mr. Chairman Except that there are two schools of thought. As I said before and I repeat, if it is the conviction of a member that — for instance, some people think Cabot should have been hanged instead of being paid ten pounds for discovering this island; that is merely a question of judgement upon which men might differ. I suppose he is entitled to enter into the realms of speculation or conjecture.

Mr. Hollett What I want to get at is this, that statement, does he expect people to regard that as truth or as his own personal opinion? I take it this report was based on facts; it is true they did make some prognostications as to the degree of prosperity for the next three years. We do not have to accept that. Mr. Banfield says the fishery is slipping down into the dole stage again, the woods industry is good only for another two or three years, in spite of the fact, in the considered opinion of the Economic Committee and in the opinion of the people who are looking after the woods industry, it will be prosperous for the next ten years. Do we want the people to accept that Economic Report based on facts, or does Mr. Banfield want them to accept his opinion?

Mr. Chairman That is beyond my competency. It is his right to draw any inference or conclusion he desires. Whether or not he will be able to sell his ideas to the people next May or June, I am not going to make any pronouncement upon, for the obvious reason that I cannot.

Mr. Smallwood I have no intention of making any speech at this time on the debate now before the Chair. After leaving here at six o'clock today

and picking up my mail, I found this letter which I think may help to throw some light on the present economic position of Newfoundland in at least one of its aspects.

Mr. Chairman To what do you refer?

Mr. Smallwood I was about to read a letter, the author of which is willing to have her name used.

Mr. Higgins I strongly object.

Mr. Chairman If you do not mind, I have permitted a certain amount of latitude in this connection. In fact I might very well and very properly be accused of permitting too much latitude. I want members to remember that the expression of outside opinion to them is one thing, and must not be confused with expressions of opinion by members on matters before the Chair, which is something entirely different. Therefore I have to state that I cannot concern myself with anything that happens outside the House and therefore I do not propose to allow expressions of opinion originating outside the House, in permanent form or otherwise, to have any bearing at all upon the deliberations of the House. The only thing with which I am concerned is to ensure that members shall observe the standing orders and regulations covering debates on matters which come before the Chair. Therefore, Mr. Smallwood, I am compelled to draw the line and make a general ruling: I will not be concerned with any expressions of opinion outside this House unless the document referred to is of an official nature, which is calculated to lay the foundation for the consideration of some matter which is before the House.

Mr. Smallwood I accept your ruling. This letter is not an expression of opinion. This is a letter which describes the condition of economic affairs.

Mr. Higgins Point of order. That is not an official document as far as we are concerned. Therefore I object to anything being quoted from it.

Mr. Smallwood There was no such ruling ever made and I have not been out of this House ten minutes since the Convention started. Time and again members have quoted from documents which were not official. Mr. Hollett has just quoted from a book written by me...

Mr. Higgins That is official.

Mr. Smallwood Time and again documents have been quoted in this chamber which were not officially compiled. Here is a bit of first hand information from a part of this country describing