

happened in the last ten years to make us more fit to govern ourselves than in other years?

**Mr. Hollett** That would take a great deal of time.

**Mr. Butt** I am not thinking of any one particular thing in the report. It tells us we spent half a million dollars on those school buildings; I have no doubt that is necessary. We spent \$15,000 additional in the training of teachers. Is that a proper proportion? I do not know. If you have a good teacher you have a good school; and that does not mean it should be a good building. During the period, while spending extra amounts of money, have we increased the grading and standard of our teachers?

**Mr. Hollett** The point is one which we did consider, but we did not go into the various points you mention. We took it for granted that the Convention knew what is being done along the lines of health and nutrition in schools. We came to the conclusion that education has made very real progress. That is something about which it is very difficult to bring in facts. As for patriotism, that is instilled into children before they read or write. We are not saying it is like we should see it, but we realise that education is something which cannot be controlled by the thought of any one particular individual. Education is something which grows by the instinct and ability, both financially and morally, of the people. We will not therefore give our personal views of the term. I don't know if that answers the question.

**Mr. Butt** I don't want to be misunderstood, but I know the people in the education department very well. I believe very strongly that we have made real progress. I feel also that these people are doing a remarkably good job, and I am impressed with their sincerity. That is a correct statement; but the point I want to know is, are there main lines that you could have considered? For instance teachers' grades, how far have you gone with that? I am not interested in particular examples, I am thinking of the main lines that you were taking.

**Mr. Smallwood** I believe it was Mr. Butt who recently was telling me of a situation in connection with road building. I think he cited an illustration of how an amateur can be fooled very easily by an engineer. Two estimates are made of the cost of building a road, one is small and the other a much larger amount. The amateur, not

being equipped with technical knowledge, is easily fooled, and I think Mr. Butt's illustration was that \$40,000 went down the drain before ever a sod was turned because of the estimates. It appears that amongst engineers around the world the whole job is done by estimates. Well now, apply that to this matter of education. I have no doubt that there are men in the world today who could walk into the Department of Education and say, "What's your total grant for education?" "What's the total of your administrative cost?" "What is the total amount of your grant for teachers' salaries?" "What is your total amount for this, that, and the other, in percentages?" And the minute they hear those percentages they compare them with a dozen or maybe 20 countries around the world, and, if they are trained they know if these are correct percentages or not.... I would think that, after having spent some years in the department, Mr. Butt would have a general familiarity with that kind of thing, but I don't think the Education Committee felt competent to approach the matter in that regard. There may be a dozen men in this Convention today who can blow holes in this report, and I know there are many men outside the Convention who can riddle it properly, and outside the country there are educators and professional educationalists who would make it look like monkey work. Unfortunately we have not got that kind of training. We could only look at it as amateurs, ordinary Newfoundlanders, in the light of how many school buildings, how many rooms, the cost of upkeep and the probable future cost, etc.

These matters touch me closely. I feel very prejudiced on it. I have a deep suspicion of any attempt on the part of any country or government to use the schools for propaganda. Hitler did that, and I don't want to see it done in this country. The government should foot the bills and then hands off. Least of all do I want our education system to be used for matters of propaganda, except maybe in the matter of health, and in that the Junior Red Cross is doing a very good job. Let us have confidence that our children are being brought up clean-minded and open-minded. They have a right to form their own opinions as they face life. Let's equip them to think, and in collaboration with the other agencies, churches, etc., let us train them morally and in matters of character. That's a wholly professional topic