

perhaps four-fold. Firstly, to consider and discuss. Secondly, to examine the position of the country. Thirdly, to make recommendations. We have been considering the changes that have taken place in Newfoundland since 1934 and we have entered into considerable discussion. I think, in view of what has been said by members, that there is little need for me to say much more on the economic situation, but yet I consider that perhaps my time might be well spent in referring to the reports which have been presented and in giving my ideas on them. I shall try to do this in the shortest possible time, but I would like the indulgence of the members of this House because I have no definite prepared speech....

....In discussing the economic position, which is the backbone and lifeblood of our national life, I would like to refer to two reports — the report of Chadwick and Jones,¹ which was distributed to us before the Convention met, and the Report of the Finance Committee.² The former report is a comprehensive survey and I think it would have been greatly to our advantage if instead of going out and making another Economic Report, we had accepted this Chadwick-Jones Report and had debated it. It contains 15 tables, and while it was prepared before the Convention met, we could have these tables brought up to date by the government. That is the least we could expect of them. Perhaps, seeing that we are in the closing hours of the Convention now, that might be overlooked. But anyone who has considered and studied this white paper ... has been struck with its comprehensiveness. It is a factual report and contains a considerable amount of information.

Regarding the Economic Report of the Finance Committee and also the Finance Report, I consider these reports have good points in them, but as far as I am concerned the Economic Report is not broad enough in its scope. I consider it a little too budgetary.... It seems to me we should keep in mind the fact we are not a government, but elected representatives sent here to do the job according to well defined terms of reference. We have the past to guide us. We are told history repeats itself. We all know we are living in a changing world. We are getting newer ideas. The age we live in, with aeroplanes, radios, cars, trucks, travel, motorboats and all the other inven-

tions of our age, have all played their part in adding to the changing order. As far as I can see, the term "foreseeable future" has about it a sort of unreality which is unconvincing.... I do not know whether we were sent here to see what the future of Newfoundland is going to be. I do not think we were. I think we were sent here to assess and examine — that is the present tense — the country as we find it today. Who knows the future? God alone knows it.

There are several matters I would like to speak about in this report. The need of a good standard of living for our people is an essential, a great essential. We want taxation lifted from the necessities of life, and I would not want to be a part in the future, or even in the present, of a government which would seek to extract \$17 million in duties from 300,000 people. There should be a great revision of the tariffs. I think it was about a year ago that the government made some reductions in the tariff, and I hope it will not be very long before we have further reductions, so that it will in some way try and offset the rise in the cost of living which must be a source of deep concern to our people. We know it is. I speak as one from the outports, rubbing shoulder to shoulder with the fishermen, for in our section people depend practically wholly upon the fisheries. There are some people who augment their earnings with the amount they earn from the lumberwoods. I am sure these people are anxiously awaiting the day when this great amount, I think it was \$20 million last year, will be considerably lifted from their shoulders. We have heard recently about the request of the dairymen for an increase in milk. The fact that there is \$4.75 a ton placed on imported hay is excessive. I see no reason whatsoever why the government could not reduce or remove altogether the duty on hay.

We know that people are wondering when the economic recession is going to get an impetus such as the World War brought along. Those of us who went through the experience after World War I, and knew the collapse of firms as a result of the drop in price of fish, wonder today when this recession is going to strike us again. Personally, I do not think there will be such a drop in price as was experienced at that time. I think the demand for proteins, just the same as the

¹Volume II:16.

²Volume II:369.