

November 12, 1947

Mr. Chairman Before proceeding to the business of the day, may I advise the House that I have just received the following communication from His Excellency the Governor:

12 November, 1947.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have received a communication from the High Commissioner for Canada directing my attention to a typographical error in the last paragraph on page 10 of the document outlining the "Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation."

The word "not" needs to be deleted.

Whilst this does not of course affect the appointment of the debt or the retention of the surplus by Newfoundland and is immaterial from the standpoint of the general effect of the proposed arrangements, the High Commissioner feels that, for the sake of accuracy, he should mention the matter.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon Macdonald
Governor.

Report of the Finance Committee: Economic Report¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Crosbie Mr. Chairman, I am not going to enter into any petty discussions or sandbag anyone. I have heard too much of this; have listened to too much doom and disaster and sundry roaring and reckon our listeners suffered the same, although not at the same time.

Newfoundlanders are not infallible, neither are other people, and to prove this I would like to take you back to the time Japan declared war on China. We were told by the political economists of the United States and other countries, including Great Britain, that Japan could not carry on war with China without going financially broke, yet she did continue this war for several years. Then in March 1933, we were told by the political economists of Great Britain and the United States that Hitler, who had come to power in Germany, could not last six months, yet in fact he lasted until 1939 when he declared war on Great Britain and later the United States, and for six years he waged war against these two great nations and their allies. Japan later attacked the United States and helped Hitler for at least two or three years of war against these two great countries. Hitler lasted long enough to bring untold hardship and starvation to millions, and millions are still suffering, yet we are told here in this chamber that Newfoundlanders are foolish, because they bring in a report and make estimates that may not finally turn out. I have seen budgets and estimates made of other countries with the same result. It is true that the report of your Committee may be changed in places, that is why it is brought in here; to be treated the same as other reports —

some things added, some things taken away; but as a member of that Committee I am satisfied it is as clear a picture of the conditions of this country today and for the near future as is possible. I am sure we are self-supporting at the moment, and will be for some time to come.

I would like to review once more our fisheries. As we know it is from our fisheries that the greatest number of our people obtain their livelihood. If our fisheries are prosperous, our country is prosperous.... It may come as a surprise to some of you to know that we are the second largest exporter of frozen fish and fishery products to the United States. Canada comes first, but some day I hope we will come first. You know that there has been a meeting of many countries to discuss the reduction of tariffs and inter-trade; it may be possible there will be a reduction on certain tariffs and then Newfoundland will benefit, we cannot expect better treatment than other countries, but at least we may expect the same. We have been told that this country is in a very strategic position. This is perfectly true. But I do not mean a strategic position with regard to war, but with regard to our fishing banks, the water around and near our shores. We are known to have one of the largest continental fishing ledges in the world, one of the best. I have been told by presidents of large fishing companies of the United States that some day in the near future they will have to come to Newfoundland for their raw materials. This paints a nice picture in my mind of what our fisheries may be in the future. In 1934-35 we

¹Volume II:425.