

it in their steel mills, and milking Bell Island dry. Maybe that company in Cape Breton has kept going for years by the money made in Bell Island, in which case the Government of Newfoundland would be defrauded. I am not saying it is so, but I am suspicious. Maybe Newfoundland is getting the rotten end of it.

There is a new contract coming up in 1949. When the last contract came up, I remember the company approached the Monroe¹ government to pass this new contract. The government did not like it, they were ashamed of it. What did they do? They sent over to the Wabana Mineworkers' Union and asked them to send over a delegation so that the government could explain the proposed contract to them. The delegation came and met the government, and the proposed agreement was read out and there was a dead silence when they finished. The government then said that if the mineworkers of Bell Island were satisfied with the agreement, the government might feel justified in bringing it before the House of Assembly and getting it passed, but if the workers were not satisfied then they would not bring it before the House. That was in 1927, I think, or 1926. I don't think any agreement was signed, at least it was not passed, and it rode on without any agreement until 1929, when this present agreement was brought in — 10 cents a ton up to a million and 3 cents a ton for the next half million tons, and after that nothing at all. That expires in 1949.

Mr. Jackman I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Chairman There is no point of order. Mr. Smallwood is speaking. You will have an opportunity to rebut Mr. Smallwood later if you wish.

Mr. Smallwood So far the government is getting royalties or an export tax from them, and the most they can get is \$115,000 a year. No matter what they export or produce, no matter what profit they make or don't make, the most they can get is \$115,000.... Mr. Jackman and the people in Bell Island and his union must remember that they are Newfoundlanders — that Bell Island is not a separate country, but is part of Newfoundland. They don't need me to remind them that when the company falls down on the job, as they have done, it is not the company that has kept them, but the government and that's why the

government is interested in the amount of taxes that they get. I hope that this thing will be cleared up, and that this company in Cape Breton, which operates also in Bell Island, will be reorganised. Maybe they are top-heavy, or inefficient, I don't know. Maybe they can't get markets, but whatever is wrong I hope it will be cleaned up. We have resources in Bell Island that God gave us, and it is up to this country and the government to get out of those resources the most that can be got out. It is up to this Convention to figure the possibilities that lie in that direction. I am not satisfied with the taxation we are getting out of Bell Island. I would rather see that corporation pay it — if it can be done without hurting the miners — than the fishermen and the loggers and the labourers. The whole policy of the country and the government is to defend these corporations. We have been down and out so long, that if we get a bit of labour we bless them and let them off from the payment of taxes, but we tax our own people and the fishery, and they are maybe playing us for suckers.

Before I sit down there is one point I want to ask Mr. Higgins. On page 11, the breakdown of employees' earnings for 1946; 1,182 men, mostly casual labour, earned less than \$1,000, and 509 regular employees earned from \$1,000 to \$1,500, etc., a total of 2,807 men. Actually there were not that many employed, were there?

Mr. Higgins There were a certain number of floaters, if you can call it that. They come in for a period and then they leave and there are others taken on. In other words, to have something like 800 working men constantly employed you really have to employ about 1,200 during the year.

Mr. Smallwood Is that it? Is it that there is such a turnover of labour? Is it that, or is it because in the peak season they have to take on additional men?

Mr. Jackman Possibly I could explain that, I am sure Mr. Smallwood would like to get the explanation. Here is the position: we mine ore in wintertime and stockpile. That means that we have a certain number of men who service the ships during the shipping season, and that starts around the middle of April, and continues from then till December. While we are taking this ore in stockpiles off the surface, we have around 300 seasonal workers. At the end of the year that's

¹Hon. W.S. Monroe, Prime Minister, 1924-28.