

two reasons. First because it is beyond the power of the Convention to approach the issue in such a manner; and secondly because the motion depends entirely upon statistics instead of a complete survey of the background. The matter of raising the scale of wages should be left to the authorities concerned. I would advise the Convention to be cautious unless it was equipped

with complete knowledge.

Mr. Jackman I realise how limited our authority is. The issue is purely a moral one and it is only asking that such important persons as school teachers be paid enough to live on.

Mr. Chairman The motion is that the Report of the Education Committee be received.

Report of the Forestry Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, this report has been in the hands of delegates for about ten days and I would like to go ahead with it now and get it cleaned up. Monday² is a holiday and there will be no sitting, and if the members of the Convention want we can sit tonight in order to get this thing finished as soon as possible. Whatever members ask for I will accommodate them to the best of my ability. The report covers the whole forestry situation, including the pulp and paper industry and saw mills. The committee took an overall picture of the whole country to try and bring out as accurately as we could the earning power we get from paper, pulp and local lumbering industries in Newfoundland.

Mr. Smallwood Will you give us some idea of the basis of the computation?³

Mr. Cashin There's around 50 million feet of lumber cut annually by our own sawmills, and we had gentlemen on the Committee who had a good idea of the price of lumber, sawing, loading, etc. They figure about \$35 a thousand, and lumber is selling today in St. John's for about \$65. By the time you pay freight, etc., the man who actually produces it, if he had to do all these things, cut, saw, etc., would make \$35 a thousand on it. That is how we estimated the earning power of the men engaged in cutting, sawing, etc. That is approximate.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, if you will turn to page 11, sec. 7.... Would you give us the basis of that belief?

Mr. Cashin If you will notice the papers, particularly here in St. John's, it is announced every week. Building here is increasing constantly, and they are going to require more lumber, and therefore it will require more work in cutting, sawing,

manufacturing, and we figure that therefore the earning power will increase.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Major Cashin would pass a comment on this. I notice in today's issue of the *Evening Telegram* that the editor comments on the report and says it is very fine in every way, he says:

In one important particular, however, the figures quoted are at least open to question. It states that there are in Newfoundland 22,000 square miles of timberland under leases. Out of the total area of 42,000 square miles, that would represent fifty percent or, excluding the area comprised of lakes and rivers, given in the report as one third of the total, seventy-five per cent of the whole land area in the island. So far as this paper is aware, there are no survey figures available to show what proportion of Newfoundland's surface is timberland, but if the surveys made in Canada to determine the extent of its forested lands may be regarded as a criterion, either the forest growth in this country is phenomenal or the figures are fantastic.

I don't know if there is any basis for that.

Mr. Cashin In connection with that, I think it is agreed that one third of the island is composed of lakes, rivers, etc., and a lot of these are included in the leased land, and we got that information from the Department of Natural Resources. They gave us an idea, as closely as they could, on the amount of timber on these lands. It is figured today that the two pulp and paper companies, who control practically all the leasehold land in the country, have roughly between 45 and 50 million cords of wood in these areas. The two companies have between them around 20,000

¹Volume II:56.

²November 11.

³Of the earning power of sawmill operations.