

been very nice if Mr. Bradley had drawn our attention to that fact. I presume everybody in this country knew there was a war in those years.

One other statement in reference to the bases. Mr. Bradley said, "The base agreement was signed under no compulsion whatsoever". In the first place I would like to point out that the base agreement was signed before the people of Newfoundland knew anything whatsoever about it. And we have been informed by people who were very close to things in those days, that when a couple of our Commissioners, very patriotically I thought, objected to signing these agreements on the grounds that something should have been put into it having reference to a future date when they might be considered, they were bluntly told by the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill that he would have none of it — sign on the dotted line, or else. If that is not compulsion, I don't know what else to call it. More than that, they were signed without any reference at all to the people of this country. I just wanted to draw these facts to your attention, Mr. Chairman, I don't want them to go undisputed.

Mr. Bradley gave an excellent address yesterday, delivered in a masterly style for which he is well noted. I am not trying to make any defamation of his speech, but I wish to draw your attention to these little things, which may be very important to the future of our country.

Our friend, the Rev. Burry of the Labrador; with all due respect, I think he is more or less what we call half and half, or as we say in London, "awf and awf". He is half in favour of the report and he is half against it. He did say this though, and I got it down: "Those people who drew up this report and agreed with it, were not treating the people in a fair way". Now that compares so closely to a statement which has been made here before, that it was not an honest report, that I have, sir, to draw your attention to that also. "The people who drew up that report gave such a rosy picture that they were not treating the people of this country in a fair way." Now whether Mr. Burry meant to put it in that way or not I don't know, but that's exactly as he put it, and then he did go on to the homes in his own district, in Labrador. He deplored the fact that everybody on the Labrador has not got a chesterfield instead of a home-made bench to sit or lie on. I think I ought to draw your attention to that

because these chesterfields come after many, many years of civilisation, and when they do come I don't know that they add very much to the economy, or peace and happiness of the people who possess them. That is in the offing I thought, as far as Newfoundland is concerned, and as far as Labrador is concerned.

He did speak about unemployment insurance also, and I would like to point out that that unemployment insurance, as I understand it in a neighbouring country, does not touch the fishermen; so that if we are going to have unemployment insurance in this country, get something which is going to be of some help to the fishermen. I grant you that our fishermen have always had a pretty rough time of it, but they were always honest and rugged, and any time when a call came to fight for our King and country, they were the first to enlist. So the hardships and battles of life did not prevent them from being patriotic when it came to the point of defending that which they do enjoy, be it rough and tumble, be it sometimes hunger or whatnot. They did not hesitate at the call to arms, and they did not hesitate when it came ... to lay down their lives.... So I do not think that even the rough times that our people had, have in any way undermined their moral attitude towards life and Christianity, and that is much better, much greater than having a chesterfield in your front room....

I refer you to a statement made by Mr. Banfield yesterday, in which he referred to the people of Fortune Bay. I know a good many people from Fortune Bay, and I know you have not any better fishermen in this country than in Fortune Bay, and that nine times out of ten they make a good voyage, and a pretty good living. I am not saying all of them. In such a precarious trade as the fishery there have to be some failures. There have to be men who get sick during the voyage, and men who don't seem to run into the fish — even neighbours. They make trip after trip and don't strike the fish on the Grand Banks, but when they do they know how to catch it. And the Fortune Bay fishermen are some of the best we have. All right, they have poor years, but is there any reason why, in considering the future of this country and the general aspect of the economy, we should bring up isolated cases of this nature, and try to tell the rest of our people that this is a pretty rotten country to live in? I tell you it is