

been already submitted to this Convention in the various Committees' reports and have received the approval of the delegates. And in cases where we do express opinions we have taken care to have their correctness endorsed by those competent to do so.

Now I ask you, do you think that this Committee were not candid when they presented this report for our consideration? Anybody who thinks so should be examined. Then we go a little further down in the next paragraph. "We are conscious of the fact that there may be some delegates who will be satisfied with nothing less than an absolute gilt-edged guarantee of our solvency for the next 20 years, before they will accept the fact that Newfoundland is self-supporting." So they were under no illusions. Now about this matter of self-support. Luckily, under the Convention Act, Major Cashin, you did not have to decide whether we were self-supporting. That was the people away back in 1933 in the Newfoundland Act. They said, "You can have your government back when you are self-supporting", but not the Convention Act. They say, "No, you have to consider the financial conditions of this country due to wartime conditions ... etc., and satisfy yourselves, and make some recommendations." You did not have to find out whether we are self-supporting. No country in this world is ever self-supporting, no man or woman is ever self-supporting over any predestined period. This country, Canada, Great Britain — the mother of a good many countries, the country which we thought in our young days would be always self-supporting. She is not, and never was, and never can be. Don't let us forget that we ourselves can never be self-supporting for any particular period. We can only hope and pray to Almighty God that prosperity will continue to keep us self-supporting as long as possible. So you did not have to decide, although you said we are self-supporting. There were some remarks made yesterday about optimism, realism and pessimism. The gentleman from Bonavista Centre says you are too optimistic. I don't want it optimistic, or pessimistic, but realistic. I ask you, who is a pessimist in this House? Is it not the man who said these words yesterday?

I am afraid I have taken up a lot of your time. I did not intend to speak nearly as long, but as I went along I thought I might just as well finish

my review of this report, which I think is an excellent report, and I have no fear whatsoever in recommending that when the time comes to vote upon it, it is your bounden duty to say, "Yes, we are self-supporting. The report is all right as far we can see." Never mind the experts and statisticians you are going to bring in. We are supposedly commonsense men, and sometimes I think statisticians are not. They are ordinary men, they will bring you in a set of figures which you can't possibly grasp or understand...; but you are hard-headed businessmen, every one of you 44 men, and there is that report, and I ask you to read it and ask yourselves, "Is that a fair report?" Think of the new industries. Think of the fisheries and mining and forestry, and all the others. Think of the \$25 million that's in the Bank of Nova Scotia. Think of all these things, and you will have to come to the conclusion that they have brought in a fair and honest report, and that we are self-supporting as far as it is at all possible for us to be.

Mr. Vardy Mr. Chairman, after making a very careful analysis of the figures and statements made in this report, my wonder is how any person continuously accused of being crammed full of politics could bring in such a comprehensive, informative, and conservative estimate of the true economic position of Newfoundland. There are no wild, exaggerated statements.... Treating the overall picture as we should, and as we would a private business, our liquid position is most encouraging. If we were attached today and sold lock, stock and barrel, we are solvent and would have a surplus after all creditors were paid. The Ottawa delegation has done a splendid job by confirming in substance and in fact the essence of everything contained in this Economic Report and for this they deserve our congratulations. I would say to these gentlemen, stick to your guns, you have built a good case and some day you may have a chance to see your dreams come true; but do not come back and before the ink is dry on the paper tell the world you painted a false picture and were just trying to get money from Canada under false pretences. This will react badly and will cast a reflection on the whole delegation. We have agreed the country is watching, other countries beside ours are watching also, and they will judge us on our merits by the permanent good and loyalty that is in us.... We all have a common duty to perform, regardless of the par-