

I think it is only fair for someone to say a word also for the education authorities before Commission of Government came here at all. You will notice that the Education Committee's report drove a peg in, and dealt with the period from that peg. That peg was 1921-22, which was around the time that the Department of Education was set up. That department was set up with Dr. Arthur Barnes as the first Minister of Education. Dr. Barnes is still living at Bay Roberts, extremely active mentally and physically, extremely interested still in education and in the affairs of Newfoundland. He is one of the greatest Newfoundlanders we have ever had in the field of education.... I do not remember the year, but I do remember the time when the total expenditure of public money on education in Newfoundland reached the shocking amount of half a million dollars, considered by the education people in this country to be a magnificent achievement. Beginning with the creation of the department the total amount of public money earmarked for education began to rise steadily and almost unbrokenly, up to the very moment when the impact of the world depression was felt. So for that reason, the Education Committee wisely and fairly made its study of the progress of education, at least materially, over the period 1921-22 up to the present time.

Turn to page 3 of that report and you will notice that total expenditure rose steadily from 1921-22 year by year until it reached \$1 million in 1930-31.... This increase in expenditure, this growth in the education plant, is nothing spectacular; it is not a thing that began with Commission of Government. This process of spending a larger proportion of money on it began before 1921-22; it has been a process practically continuous. We ought to give credit to the pioneers in education and especially to Dr. Barnes and Dr. Burke, who has just retired; also to Dr. Blackall and Dr. Curtis who worked and sacrificed to build education into what it is today.

**Mr. Hollett** It is refreshing to hear Mr. Smallwood referring to the good men no longer in the limelight; I am sure we have had some grand men in the past. There is one thing in Mr. Smallwood's remarks referring to the expenditures in 1921-22 — I do not know if I heard him correctly — if you look at the percentage it was 8.1 in 1921-22, and in 1946 10.41.

**Mr. Smallwood** I am aware of the percentages in the third column; but 8.1% of the total revenue is very much more money than 10.41% of the revenue of 1946-47. That is the point I am making. Relatively it is much more money.

**Mr. Starkes** In 1921 when the revenue was \$10.5 million our education grant was \$817,000, and now the Commission of Government with a revenue of \$34 million are spending 2% less on education than what was spent 25 years ago: 12% of our expenditure went on education.

**Mr. Hollett** So far as I can see the percentage being spent now is greater.

**Mr. Newell** Assuming that the expenditure was \$10 million 25 years ago, the percentage spent was 8.1%, I make it.

**Mr. Chairman** I think it better to defer this point, as Mr. Figary, who possesses one of the few books with accurate figures, is absent from the session.

**Mr. Harrington** I am not interested in any exercises of arithmetic as I think it is a waste of time. I did not propose to say anything on this report as I was a member of the committee.... Nevertheless, there was one point raised by two speakers and that was the system of education. It was agreed at the outset that the current system was the most desirable, and I would like to go on record as being unalterably in favour of the present system because it is the best that could be devised. The history of this country shows that before there was any attempt made by any governmental authorities, the churches stepped into the breach and gave us what educational facilities we have at the present time, and I am quite convinced that, under conditions as they are in the country today, the present system is the best under the circumstances, and it does not come within our province as a Convention to interfere and supplant it by any means.

**Mr. Hollett** With regard to Mr. Jackman's resolution, at the outset let me say that I am all in favour of giving teachers a living wage; but you will remember this Convention only has power to recommend, but not to demand.

**Mr. Jackman** I made the motion in good faith, and I thought there might be a recommendation go to the government on behalf of the teachers; but I would not urge to have it incorporated in the report.

**Mr. Miller** I oppose Mr. Jackman's motion for