

indicate that the "Big 6" have made no allocation for anything in the way of tourist development. In spite of all the advice they have had, in spite of experts going over the country, they come back and say, "No, we have no interest." That is the only department of the government which produces money — big money.

This Board has resigned and the next thing we will have is the paid personnel of the Tourist Board receiving their notices at the end of the year. I do not think we should let the opportunity pass without at least expressing our opinion on the utterly ruthless policy of the government. It is the one department putting in time and effort and getting returns. But it does not meet with the approval of our rulers! It leads to the belief that has been expressed that the government does not want this country to become wealthy, for reasons best known to themselves. We have got to be kept in the condition of servitude so that we will not get too independent.

If we refer to the paid personnel of the Tourist Board, I know the work that has been done by them. They are not paid for working nights, Sundays or holidays; but the Board has been there nights, Sundays and holidays. Even the voluntary workers have been there on such occasions. It has not cost the country anything, because the Tourist Board and the paid personnel have been crusaders for their ideas rather than merely earning government money. Some departments know what work has been done by that Board and their value; and the government expresses its thanks in three paragraphs. We have this letter addressed to Mr. Reid:

26 November 1946.

Sir:

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 15th November, addressed to His Excellency the Governor in Commission, signed by you and other members, tendering your resignation from the Board.

2. I am directed to accept the resignations. In doing so I am to express the thanks of the government for the services you have rendered and to express our regret that you have found it necessary to sever your connection with the Board.

3. I have sent a copy of this letter to the other signatories under reference.

(signed) J.S. Neill

After 20 years service, that is what the government thinks of our fellow countrymen. I think I have gone further than I intended to in this matter. That is such a rank injustice that I could not let it pass without giving you my comments as I feel them and as I believe a good many members felt today.

Mr. Smallwood There are several points about tourist travel business that ought to be brought out. If an American or Canadian concern comes to Newfoundland to start a paper mill or a mine, we are all very glad. It means they employ Newfoundlanders and pay out wages, it circulates money. But a paper mill or mine uses up some of this country's natural resources. There is this about the tourist trade; money is brought into Newfoundland by tourists who come here and spend and do not use up any of the natural resources. You might also say it is money for not exactly nothing; they get pleasure out of our climate, our air, out of meeting our people and by knocking around the country. Some of them do take some salmon and other fish — that is a very small diminution of the resources. This Tourist Board, as Mr. Higgins said, has been working for something like 20 years, absolutely free. When the Tourist Board appeared before the Transportation Committee I am sure all the members were deeply impressed.... These hard-headed, practical businessmen are not easily impressed with the financial possibilities of anything. We were impressed by the great faith these men had in the tourist possibilities of Newfoundland. I have been a firm believer that the tourist trade constitutes the most promising thing we have in this country today. If Newfoundland in 1946 had been ready to receive them, Newfoundland could have got many, many thousands of the tourists who, in this present year, were spending \$4 billion on the North American continent. It would not take a great many million dollars to bring into Newfoundland each year 40,000 - 50,000 tourists. If 100,000 tourists can be brought into Nova Scotia in one year, I feel quite confident that we can bring that number of tourists into Newfoundland for a fortnight or a month or six weeks and some even longer, every summer, it can mean \$10 million or \$15 million of new money coming in without costing the country anything in the way of its natural resources.