

above) are part of the government's plan to conserve United States dollars and are not the result of the Geneva agreements. The former is an emergency measure, designed to overcome temporary difficulties arising from the tardiness in recovery of world multilateral trading. The latter is a long-run agreement designed to facilitate multilateral trade.

[There follows a list of excise tax changes]

In addition taxes at the rate of 25% ad valorem have been announced as part of the emergency plan on the following items which were previously free of tax (see Votes and Proceedings, December 18, 1947 referred to above)....

[Documents dealing with Canadian trade policy were appended to this answer]

Now these are the replies to some of the questions I have submitted to the Government of Canada, replies that have just this minute been received. I don't know, sir, whether you have any information as to when I am likely to receive replies to those other questions, but those are the replies I have received so far, and I presume that the secretariat will have them mimeographed or otherwise made available to the members and for the information of the press and radio, and generally of the public of Newfoundland.

Mr. Chairman On that point, before you go any further I think I would want to consult the Steering Committee on this matter. Some of the answers take the form of incorporating by way of reference certain voluminous documents which are appended thereto, and it might be that it would occasion considerable hardship and considerable loss of time if the principle of mimeographing all replies indiscriminately were employed.... Therefore, before I am prepared to make any ruling on the point, I think I must refer the matter to the Steering and Information Committees, so that they may be able to assist me in determining what is the most satisfactory *modus operandi* to be employed in fairness to members in the present circumstances.

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, I am going to take the privilege of announcing some of these ones I have received here.... I am going to give you the whole thing now. I am very sorry indeed, because it is going to take a lot of time.

Mr. Chairman If you choose to summarise that's all right.

Mr. Cashin Question:

I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask the Honourable the Commissioner for Justice, that if in the event of Newfoundland becoming a Canadian province it will void and annul section 45 of the Labrador Mining and Exploration Act of 1938 which states "except where it is necessary for the Company to employ technical experts, the Company shall at all times employ Newfoundland workmen, provided same shall be available"?

I also ask the Commissioner for Justice what effect, if any, the entry of Newfoundland into union with Canada will have upon article II of the agreement made between Canada and Newfoundland on air transport and dated the 29 July, 1946, which article provides that wherever possible priority shall be given to citizens of Newfoundland in the employment of labour at the airfield at Goose Bay?

Answer:

January 8, 1948.

Dear Sir,

I have to refer to your letter of December 4 addressed to the Secretary for Justice with which were forwarded copies of notice of two questions by a member of the National Convention.

The questions are hypothetical and it is not usual to give legal opinions upon such questions. I am, however, to convey to you the opinion that, subject to any provision in the formal document which would embody the exact terms upon which Newfoundland would become a province of the Dominion of Canada, clause 45 of the agreement forming the schedule to the Labrador Mining and Exploration Company Ltd. Act of 1938, which sets forth one of terms or conditions on which a company has acquired property rights in Newfoundland, would continue operative and that, subject as aforesaid, the Air Transport Agreement made between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland on July 29, 1946, would cease to operate as air transport to and from Newfoundland is a matter which would lie entirely within the field of Dominion jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,

W.J. Carew
Secretary.