

I am rather concerned about the City of St. John's. It has I should judge at least a couple of thousand people in excess of its needs and certainly requires some reconstruction through a town planning agency. It may be possible to merge some of those small communities into the larger ones with improved opportunities to make a living. The use of the interior of the country for reindeer is worthy of consideration. The necessity of some capital expenditures for these purposes seems clear when it is realized that "able-bodied relief"—\$1.80 per adult per month—this year will total fully \$1,000,000 or four per cent on \$25,000,000.

The situation calls for a very complete examination of the entire coast line in order to determine the actual condition of the people, and what should be done to advance their interests. As a Canadian I would say that before Canada should think of taking Newfoundland into our Confederation, we should have a clear understanding of the obligations we would be incurring. I am not looking at it from any selfish but rather a humanitarian point of view. I hold it would be to the advantage of Newfoundland to invite Canada to participate in a survey of the people of the Island, as Canada could furnish them from its public service two or three very capable men for that purpose, such as one engaged in that very difficult task of placing people back on the land—another experienced in the fishing industry, and there should be a medical doctor in the party as well.

As I injected the question of Confederation above, I should add in fairness to the people of Newfoundland that they neither wish to enter the Canadian family nor to dispose of Labrador. Nevertheless I believe before long, they will discover that their best interests lie with Canada.

The people of Newfoundland seem to think that Labrador means great wealth to them. I wish I could see it in that light. Unquestionably it has large areas of timber and may have very considerable mineral wealth, but nothing definite is known in that respect. It is a territory that, due to ice conditions, cannot be reached by water more than five or six months yearly. If I were looking at the situation from a purely business point of view, I would say that the interest on any figure that Canada should be willing to pay Newfoundland for Labrador, would yield greater returns to Canada if invested in protecting and improving its own forest areas.

I am unable to see where the Treasury of Newfoundland can obtain any great benefit from Labrador, unless the considerable wealth that may be necessary for its development comes out of the Island (which I gravely fear the people do not possess) with the profits returned to the investors and taxed with their other wealth. It is only necessary to look at Alaska to see what has happened there. The expenditures of the Government of the United States in Alaska from 1869 to 1931 inclusive, amounted to about \$200,000,000, while the receipts in the same period were about \$50,000,000. It is true the investments in Alaska in the way of mineral development, furs and fisheries, have brought vast returns to United States interests, and through them to the treasury of their country. I enclose a copy of a speech by Mr. Wickersham