

I am directed to point out to you that the question raised in this resolution is substantially the same question as was raised in clause 1 of the resolution adopted by the National Convention pursuant to motion of February 4th, 1947, and discussed at the conference of a Committee of the National Convention with His Excellency the Governor in Commission held at Government House on February 8th, 1947. The Report of that Conference, which was adopted by the Convention, states that upon the question "respecting steps for establishing economic or fiscal relationship between the United States and Newfoundland your Committee was informed that this question was one for negotiation between Governments through the regular diplomatic channels". The Commission consider that this statement applied equally to the discussions proposed by your resolution.

At the conference it was pointed out that it was doubtful whether the subject matter of

the clause came within the terms of reference of the Convention. Respecting the proposal in the present resolution for trade and economic discussions between a delegation of the Convention and the Government of the United States of America, the Commission consider that that is entirely outside the terms of reference and the powers and authority of the Convention.

It is not clear from the resolution whether it is the desire of the Convention that the Government of Newfoundland make any arrangements in this matter. In case this should be the desire of the Convention, I am to point out that the Commission could not take any steps towards arranging for any such discussions.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W.J. Carew, Secretary.

Capt. W. Gordon Warren, R.A.,
Secretary,
The National Convention

Resolution to Raise Memorial University College to University Status

Mr. Chairman Orders of the day. Mr. Smallwood to resume the debate on motion of Mr. Higgins K.C., dated May 22, 1947.¹

Mr. Smallwood After the reading of the letter from the Commission of Government, I feel quite sure that you will be very much less interested in this resolution proposed by Mr. Higgins on Friday last than in the subject matter of the letter that has just been read. However, we have got to conform to the order paper, and at the moment Mr. Higgins' resolution is the one before us. It is a resolution which, if passed, would put this Convention on record as being in favour of turning the Newfoundland Memorial College into a university, into an institution that would confer degrees. I am in favour of that, and that is why I seconded the motion.

I have looked up some facts concerning nearby parts of the world, those nearest to Newfoundland — Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The population of Newfoundland, with Labrador, is about 320,000. In Nova Scotia, with a population less than twice the population of Newfoundland, they have eight degree-conferring educational institutions. In the

city of Halifax alone there are five.... In New Brunswick, with less than 200,000 more than our own population, they have five degree-conferring institutions ... and in the tiny province of PEI, with only 95,000, they have one.... We have not got even one. Not one in all the island, where a Newfoundland boy or girl, young man and young woman can attend and take sufficient training to lead to the conferring of a degree. This motion is to the effect that, in the opinion of the Convention, not that we can do anything about it, the Memorial University College ought to be raised to the status of a degree-conferring institution.

I am no authority on education but I am fully agreed that from a purely educational standpoint the Memorial College ought to be raised to that status, but there is another side to it, another angle that interests me a great deal. In this country of ours we have had 450 years of a very remarkable history — perhaps the most remarkable history of any part of the western half of the world. This is a country in which we have developed very distinctive peculiarities. We have our own traditions. We have our own folklore. We have our

¹Above, p. 579.