

whether the advice is sound as applied to our own particular problems.

Careful compliance by members with whatever rules of procedure may be adopted and utmost respect for the Chair and the rulings of our distinguished and experienced Chairman, will help create a pleasant atmosphere inside the Convention chamber and gain respect and confidence outside of it.

There is in my opinion one regrettable feature about the composition of this National Convention, and that is that our returned service men, especially of the younger generation, are not represented in a desirable proportion. The same remark may apply to the women of Newfoundland, both those who have served abroad and those who have worked so hard for the common good at home, during the past six years.

I suggest that this defect might be partially remedied by our inviting or requesting the GWVA¹ and indeed any other large association not adequately represented in this Convention, including one of the ladies organisations, such as the Jubilee Guilds,² to submit their considered views in writing, or to send a deputation to present them during the session of the Convention.

I feel quite incompetent to express in adequate terms our good fortune in being able to welcome His Excellency Sir Gordon Macdonald, KCMG, in his position as the representative of His Majesty and also as Chairman of the Commission of Government to open the proceedings of this Convention. During the few months in which he has resided with us, His Excellency has displayed such amazing energy and such charming tact that he has already endeared himself to our people of all classes. His delightfully sympathetic radio addresses, and more especially his personal contacts with the people residing in the very large number of places which he has visited, have definitely reached our hearts. It augurs well for the future of this country that we have at this critical time as the nominal chief executive of our little Dominion (or should I say ancient colony) one who has already shown such deep and intelligent interest in our problems, and one who has travelled already thousands of miles over our country, under by no means luxurious conditions, to see for himself the surroundings and especially

the standards of living of our most important primary producers, namely, our fishermen, woodsmen, miners and farmers. His Excellency can rest assured that thanks to his fine addresses and evident sincerity, he has impressed the people of the capital as much as those of the outports, and can count on their full support.

During the period in which the government by Commission in its present form continues to exist, I think we will most of us be happy to feel that the Chairman of the Commission is one who has wide experience in the management of public affairs, and is one who has shown the qualities of a statesman. With all due respect to the other members of the Commission of Government, we may perhaps be permitted to hope that His Excellency's influence during the continuation of the government in its present form will be more than merely nominal.

The wise words and sound advice of His Excellency the Governor are on record and speak eloquently for themselves and need no comment from me; therefore Mr. Chairman, I now have the honour to move:

That the chairman of this National Convention be requested to appoint a select committee to draft in suitable form two resolutions, one of which will be to the effect that the members of this National Convention, elected by the people of Newfoundland, desire to place on record, as their first act, an expression of sincere loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty King George VI; and the other resolution to the effect that the Convention wishes to express its sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Macdonald, K.C.M.G., for his inspiring and forceful address on opening the proceedings of this National Convention.

Mr. Harrington Mr. Chairman and members of the National Convention, it is with no little awareness of the momentous significance of this assembly that I rise to second the motion made by the Hon. Mr. Job, that an address of loyalty be presented to His Majesty the King, and an address of thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the gracious speech with which he has been pleased to inaugurate the sessions of the National Convention; and that a

¹The Great War Veterans' Association.

²A community service and self help group formed in 1935.