

stern of his dory as he voyages over the storm-lashed ocean. It strides with our sealers over the perilous icefloes. It marched shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers along the "Trail of the Caribou" and to the bloody glory of Beaumont Hamel. Out from the white cliffs of Dover, it has flown in the cockpits of the Newfoundland pilots, it has paced the decks of the heaving destroyers and has answered the stand-by signal of our gunners on the desert sands of Africa. No, sir, if the red badge of courage be the price of democratic freedom, then to paraphrase Kipling's words, "Lord God, we have paid in full."

If, then, it was not for the lack of either our mental or physical fitness that we lost our democratic freedom, then why was it? I ask the question, but I think that all of you have the answer. The people of the country know it, and the outside world too is aware of it. The answer is that we lost that last final reward of democratic living because we were found by Lord Amulree and the British and Canadian financiers guilty of the unpardonable sin of being poor. For this alone we lost all that our forefathers had treasured and fought for. For this the proud title of "dominion" was stripped from us. For this these very legislative halls were sabotaged of the symbols of a proud free people.... But did those who sat in judgement on us give any thought to the things which had made us poor? In those days we saw the rest of the world justify their financial disasters by placing the blame where it rightly belonged, at the doorstep of the world depression. Not so with Newfoundland, no such excuse was accepted from us! On us was pronounced the verdict of guilty — guilty of being corrupt in our leaders, both in church and state. These things they said, and the bad old politicians were responsible for our downfall. Other and bigger nations could ignore and even default on their gigantic national debts, on the pretext that they were war debts. This they did and believed that they were keeping their self-respect. Yet could we not claim the same defense? For was not nearly \$40 million the price we handed out to help our allies in the war of 1914-18? Over \$30 million, nearly a third of our national debt in 1933, which if we had possessed at that time would have saved us from national misfortune — dollars which this country and its people freely gave in a spirit of generous patriotism and for the

defense of democracy. The Scripture says, "Cast your bread upon the waters and it will come back to you after many days." But, alas, the bread which came back to 80,000 of our people in the dark thirties was the bitter crust of the dole. The millions we had freely poured out to ensure the freedom of other small countries like ourselves was the tragic reason that we lost our own freedom. In Newfoundland democracy died, that it might live with other peoples!

Before I continue with my prepared script, I would like to bring our minds back to this place in 1931. On many occasions I have repeated what I am going to repeat now. I feel that my remarks will not be tedious repetition, for this reason. In 1931, I happened to be Minister of Finance of Newfoundland — Sir Richard Squires was Prime Minister. We passed an act in this very hall authorising the government to borrow, on the credit of the colony, some \$8 million. When the time came round to ask for tenders on the loan, we were turned down. The executive of the government met — Mr. Bradley was a member of the executive — and it was suggested that myself and the Prime Minister should go to Montreal to consult with our bankers, the Bank of Montreal. We did this, and after considerable difficulty we were able to negotiate a temporary loan, so to speak, of \$2 million to meet our semi-annual interest coming due on June 30, 1931. Before we did this ... the General Manager of the Bank of Montreal took occasion to write myself and Sir Richard Squires, pointing out that we should then and there bring about commission government in Newfoundland, and if we did, they would guarantee us any kind of money we wanted, or words to that effect. Mr. Chairman, you are now sitting in the Chair occupied by your predecessor, Hon. Mr. Justice Fox, who was in Canada at that time and who drafted a reply to that letter. Our reply was "No". After we got the \$2 million, we came back. We took our political lives in our hands. We had to strip the public services. Mr. Bradley served on committees with us. We stripped the Railway, education, soldiers' pensions, everything. What was the result? In December, 1931, we were short again; \$2 million had to be found. That was found by the British government and, I think, the Canadian government. What happened then? The House opened in February, 1932. I had resigned as Finance