

own natural products can purchase in the USA? We *can* and *must* reach some trade agreement with the United States, whose economy may well merge with our own, and to my mind the only satisfactory channel through which this may be done is by a representative Newfoundland government, as free to negotiate for Newfoundland and her people as the United States government is for hers. Let us meet on equal terms and not as paupers or poor neighbours. It is up to us as a people to choose our market for our coveted iron ore and paper, and not to beg it as someone else's.

Since the suspension of responsible government, Newfoundland, from being an island on the edge of the world, has become a station in the centre of the world. In peace time this strategic position is an enviable circumstance and in war time it will be likely to involve an inevitable peril, and hence it is imperative to the interest of North America that all military bases now here shall remain a permanent feature. Here may I mention that the disgusting lower rates of pay for Newfoundlanders working on their own leased soil, are as revolting to me as the colour bar is elsewhere. If and when Newfoundland is returned to its own administration, I am certain this state of affairs will be rectified. Finally, may I here express the belief that a vigorous opposition in the government of any country is essential to true democracy. Without the impetus afforded by such opposition, not only do leaders lapse into a state of dictatorial lethargy, but the voice of the minority, and hence the people, fails to be heard.

No, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the easiest road is not always the best and the shortest in the long run. Throughout the past 20 months I have borne in mind this quotation:

Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice,
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy
judgement!

The time has arrived to pronounce that judgement and I have done so. We are offered, even as was Bunyan's Pilgrim, a road with many turnings and flanked on either side with deep chasms. With the same faith in God, and with zeal and courage on our own part, let us not travel backward on crutches, nor remain stagnant, but forward on our own two feet.

Mr. Banfield Mr. Chairman, this resolution is one that asks us to recommend two forms of

government to be submitted to our people in the forthcoming referendum. The two forms are responsible government and Commission of Government. It makes no difference to us here what form of government we favour ourselves, or what form we prefer. That has nothing to do with this resolution. We can favour either one of these two forms of government, and still vote for this motion to place the two of them before the people. Or we can favour neither the one nor the other, and still be in favour of submitting both of them to the people for their decision. I do not see, Mr. Chairman, how we can vote against the motion. It is not as though we were called upon to express our own personal wishes, or our own personal likes and dislikes in the matter. We are only called upon to vote in favour of submitting these two forms of government to the people, and I suppose the motion will receive the unanimous support of the whole Convention.

We tried responsible government before. In fact we had it for 80 years, and where did it land us? Our people know where it landed them — it landed them on the dole, it landed them on six cents a day. All I can say about responsible government, Mr. Chairman, is "once bitten, twice shy". Responsible government, sir, landed our people on six cents a day, and Commission of Government kept them on six cents a day. We must not forget that fact.... We had the six cent dole for three years before Commission of Government came, but we also had it long after Commission came. In fact, we had the six cents dole for six years after the Commission of Government came. We must not forget, sir, that six years after Commission came, we still had 40-50,000 of our unfortunate people on the dole. They were still on the dole right up to the outbreak of the war, and in fact for some time after the war broke out. It was not until the war was on for almost two whole years that the dole began to disappear, when Canadian and American money began to pour in here to build the bases.

People who do not like the thought of responsible government often tell us that we had the dole under responsible government. It is true we did, but it is just as true that we had it under Commission as well. With my own eyes, sir, I have seen the Commission government refuse dole to a whole settlement because their time was not quite up — they still had a few days to go