

Transportation and Communications

The duties of all the above-named committees now have been completed, and copies of the various reports submitted by them to the Convention will be found attached herewith. Each of the reports was in turn the subject of careful examination and extensive discussion by the Convention in its general sessions. In some instances committees found it difficult to obtain all the information they would have desired for the making of a more comprehensive investigation. The Convention is satisfied, however, that under the circumstances, these various reports furnish a sufficiently accurate and complete review of the matters dealt with; and that their conclusions and recommendations are based upon substantial foundations.

In the course of its deliberations the Convention deemed it advisable to send two fact-finding delegations abroad; one to London and the other to Ottawa. The delegation to London left here on April 24, 1947, and returned on May 10, 1947, and reported the result of its three discussions with the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs to the Convention; whilst, in addition, the actual conversations which took place, and which were reported stenographically, were supplied to each individual member for his private information only. The Ottawa delegation left on June 19, 1947, and returned on October 4, 1947. During the absence of these two delegations the Convention had been adjourned. The Convention reconvened on October 10, 1947, and submitted an account of its meetings with representatives of the Dominion government which is contained in two volumes, copies of which are annexed hereto.

Subsequent to the reconvening of the Convention on October 10, 1947, the Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada, the Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, forwarded by special courier to His Excellency the Governor, for transmission to the Convention, a document dated November 6, 1947, setting forth proposed arrangements for the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, with which was enclosed a letter from the Prime Minister of Canada also dated November 6, 1947. A copy of the document and letter is annexed hereto.

Also annexed hereto is the Economic Report on the present financial position and economic

outlook of Newfoundland prepared by the Finance Committee of the Convention. This report was debated at length by the Convention and on January 14, 1948, was adopted unanimously.

The proposals received from the Canadian government have been thoroughly discussed and analysed.

The following resolution was introduced and debated, namely:

Be it resolved that this Convention recommend to the United Kingdom Government that the following forms of government be placed before the people at the proposed referendum, namely:

1. Responsible government as it existed prior to 1934;

2. Commission of Government.

For this resolution the following members voted, namely:

Thomas G.W. Ashbourne
Charles L. Bailey
Charles H. Ballam
William J. Banfield
F. Gordon Bradley, K.C.
Kenneth M. Brown, O.B.E.
Rev. Lester L. Burry
Albert B. Butt
Major Peter J. Cashin
Edmund C. Cranford
Chesley A. Crosbie
P. Wellington Crummey
Wilfred Dawe
Percy Figary
Frank D. Fogwill
Joseph P. Fowler
H. Pierce Fudge
Alfred J. Goodridge
John A. Hannon
Michael F. Harrington
Edgar L. Hickman
Gordon F. Higgins, K.C.
Daniel Hillier
Malcolm M. Hollett
David I. Jackman
Hon. R.B. Job
Colin G. Jones
Thomas H. Kennedy
William J. Keough
Kenneth M. MacDonald
Michael J. McCarthy