

present form of government the best for this country, because it means taxation without representation. I will say that the present form of government, since it came into power, has done much to build up the public and social services. They have greatly increased public health services, new roads, schools and an improved marketing system for our fishery products, but I also remember that they have during the past six or seven years been helped greatly by the highest revenues in our history, which were due almost wholly to the effects of the war and to the high cost of imported goods. How long these conditions will continue is anybody's guess.

You may ask why, if I do not consider either of these forms the best for us, do I support the motion that they be placed before the people for their choice, and my answer is that we were sent here to recommend suitable forms and not to decide them. I know that there are many people who do think that one of these forms would be best, and I think it is our duty to see, as far as it lies in our power, that they are given the chance to vote for the government of their choice.

Mr. Watton Mr. Chairman, we have here a resolution introduced by Mr. Higgins, covering two forms of government to be submitted to the people of this country in the forthcoming referendum. It will be the duty of all of us tonight to register our vote as to whether we are in favour of it or not. I want to say that I am in favour of it and that I shall vote for it, because I feel that it is the only logical thing for me to do. The chief reason why I vote for it is that for the past 16 months this Convention has been studying the financial and economic position of this country, and has come to the conclusion that we are again self-supporting. The reason why we are self-supporting has been stated over and over again, and the conclusions of all the reports presented to this Convention have pointed to that fact. In view of all the circumstances, and because I believe in the resolution, I feel duty bound to support it.

As for the forms of government dealt with in this resolution, I will make my comments as brief as possible. The ground has been very ably covered by previous speakers. Personally, Mr. Chairman, I believe in the restoration of responsible government. I believe that the greatest good for the greatest number can be achieved by the immediate restoration of that form of govern-

ment. Our principal industries are today in a better condition than they ever were in our history. Our fisheries, which are and always will be the backbone of our economy, have made enormous strides in the last few years. They have become more diversified, more modern in some respects; we have a better system of marketing, and we are producing a better product as a result of proper inspection. Indications point to the fact that the future for our fisheries can and will be, under the proper administration, put on a sounder basis than it ever was before. What I mean by "proper administration" is that if we can only get the chance to use the great bargaining power that is ours. Our forest industries have grown to a considerable degree and are still growing. Millions of dollars are now being spent on the expansion of existing paper mills, and it is not improbable that in the near future another such industry will be started meaning more employment for our people. Our mining industry is in a flourishing condition with every prospect for it to continue so in the future, with the possibility of future mineral development. Agriculture shows great promise. We are, Mr. Chairman, in a more favourable position than we ever were in our history; and our position can be made much better by taking advantage of the tremendous bargaining power that is ours, due to our strategic position which has been stressed so often inside this Convention and out. We can only reap the full advantage of this by an immediate return to self-government. It has been ours for the asking for a long time now, and nothing has been done about it, and nothing will ever be done about it until the people take over the management of their own affairs. We should take advantage of it by starting negotiations with our good friend the United States of America, and by getting closer to that country economically, especially with regard to our fishery products. So much has already been said about this matter that it is unnecessary for me to elaborate. The same applies to the potential mineral and forest wealth of Labrador. Here we have something which can be of tremendous benefit to us if handled properly, and it has not been handled properly up to the present. I think the Mining Committee, of which I was a member, pointed out that fact. It is my opinion that we will never reap the full benefits until we get our own government. The quicker we can get that govern-