

coming impatient. Can you blame them? I suggest that this Convention first obtain clear-cut national facts and so put our country, and not our ideological crazy whims first. In all earnestness, let us behave and pull together as gentlemen and true Newfoundlanders, and not like so many old women in constant discord with our neighbours on the other side of the fence. Take down that fence and in its place insert the programme which is planned, and which we were put here to carry out.

Mr. NorthcottI want these terms, but the time is not ripe to get these terms; we must first set our house in order, and until then we should make no attempt to get any more than the facts that our various committees are now gathering. Surely we have many men in this country and assembly who are capable of running our affairs. We have lots of good businessmen in this house today who could take care of Newfoundland, and do it well, if they were given the job. I think we have gone far enough with the debate, and I suggest that we vote on this issue, and see where we arrive.

Mr. Dawe Mr. Chairman, I have no prepared speech. I happen to have had the honour to represent Newfoundland at the Imperial Ottawa Conferences at the request of the Newfoundland Board of Trade on timber in 1932, and I have had an office in the Ottawa House of Parliament building. I know something of the tricks of the trade and political intrigue. I have been in England, and I know some of the senators of Canada, the late Senator Webster of the British Coal Corporation, with whom I negotiated the first barter deal of pitprops with England for 300 years, and later through Senator Webster 250,000 tons of Wabana ore. The basis of our Ottawa agreement was contingent on Newfoundland selling 500,000 tons of Wabana ore. Baldwin and Thomas promised Mr. Alderdice they would do their best, and I succeeded in breaking down the prejudice of the blast furnace owners in England with the result that Wabana ore is going there today. Baldwin and Thomas did not do it, and I have the correspondence for it.

Mr. Crosbie I move that the question be put.

Mr. Starkes In speaking on the amendment made by Mr. Penney, I want to be clear that I came to this National Convention with an open mind, elected by the people in Green Bay district

for the third time in succession during the past 18 years; and by the way, no other member sitting in this Convention can boast of that record. I do because I am confident that the people in my district elected me, feeling sure I would take a firm stand and demand what I thought would be of the greatest importance to those people was sent me here. In supporting the resolution a few days ago brought in by Mr. Smallwood, I made it plain I stood here opposed to confederation at that time. I am also opposed at the present time to responsible government, and for that reason suggested when speaking on the resolution, that we also should ascertain from the British House of Parliament what they are prepared to do for us in the way of cancelling our national debt, or any other handouts that we should be prepared to consider valuable, having in mind our very close connections to the mother country, and the valuable aid this country has rendered her.

I am definitely opposed to the present form of Commission of Government as we had it forced upon us and had to endure it during the past 13 years. I said "forced upon us", because we all know that the government of that day, before they went to the country, made a pledge when presenting their manifesto that before they would change our constitution, they would first submit the change to the people in a referendum. This they did not do, they did not stand by their pledge made to the electorate, but voted for and instituted the present form of Commission of Government. I must confess that many of our people have during those years lost interest in the public affairs of this country, probably brought about by this so called prosperity that our country now enjoys. We are all conscious of the fact that this prosperity is not going to last forever, and God knows, everyone here must feel in their own hearts that we now must determine the future destiny of our people bearing in mind the probability, almost the certainty, that hard times will come again. It would be all right to talk about responsible government, if we could feel confident that the present degree of prosperity will hang on for the next 20 or 30 years....

The people of this country, and here I can speak very positively about the district of Green Bay, have a great dread in their hearts about the future that lies before them. That, sir, is why so many of our Newfoundland people today are so