

at their disposal, and have the ability and initiative to develop them. This country of ours is a producing country, and if we continue to produce to the best possible extent, we too can take our place with the progressive nations of the world. In our forest industries we see just such a program of activity working out. Our pulp and paper mills are being extended, and a similar state of affairs exists in our fishing industry — newer methods of catching and marketing are being introduced. From our industries we are in the happy position of being able to produce enough dollars to pay for all necessary imports, and consequently our standard of living has reached a peak never known before.

Other countries, including Canada, are unable to obtain dollars, but with us the position is the opposite. For this reason we can be regarded as one of the most fortunate countries in the world. I have said nothing about our agriculture, or our tourist possibilities, but these two sources of income are ready for greater development. It is my opinion that the day is not far away when we will be able to produce sufficient to make us independent of foreign markets. As for the tourist traffic, we know what this means to countries such as Canada which have no greater — if as great — attractions as are to be found in Newfoundland. Under a government of our people I see the possibilities of developing all these sources of income. Are we to be so foolish as to sacrifice all these things for the doubtful prospects which may or may not be ours under any strange form of government, so to speak? If you had a business, would you be satisfied to hand it over to some stranger to run for you? Would you feel that he could run it better than you could? Do you think he would take a greater interest in you and your family than you would yourself? Of course you would not, you would turn your back in contempt on any such offer. Yet is that not just what we are being asked to do today? Are you going to fall for it? I am sure you are not.

Mr. Chairman, in asking the people to support the actions of those of us who are seeking self-government, I do so in the conviction that I am acting in the best interests of our people. I am a born Newfoundlander with a stake in this country. I have a home and a family which it is my solemn duty to safeguard. Their best interests

are mine. Do you think I would support any form of government which I thought for a minute would not be best for them? Why should I support self-government, except for the reason that I was convinced it was best? As founder and president of a large union in Newfoundland, I have many obligations to contend with. It is my sworn duty to fight for the interest of every man in that union, and every working man in this country. Do you think that I am going to support a cause which I think is not in the best interests of the families of these union members? It would be absolutely senseless. And I say further, that if self-government is best for my union, then it is best for all other unions. After all self-government is, I believe, the very essence of labour organisations.

I think that it was unfortunate that the motion before the Chair is not so worded as to give me and other delegates an opportunity of comparing the benefits of responsible government with other forms of government. Mr. Chairman, it is generally recognised these days that Newfoundland is at a crossroads. For good or ill we who are living today have the great responsibility of deciding on what road our country will travel. I say therefore, that it is the duty of this house and indeed the duty of every Newfoundlander listening to my voice, to do his part to enlighten his fellow men, to assist those who are not fully informed on the real situation to see the light. We lost our government in 1933 because the people were kept in the dark. Let us see that it does not happen again. We have now a chance to rectify our past mistakes, but this time there will be no chance to undo our action. This time it will be for keeps.

Reviewing this whole matter, there is one feature which we must not overlook, and it is this: if in the future it should ever become necessary for us to unite with any other country (which I trust will never happen), then is it not necessary for us to have a free hand to make whatever deal we wish? For myself, if such a time ever came, I think it would be most advisable that we be able, for instance, to discuss matters with the United States of America. Do we want to shut ourselves off from such a position?

Mr. Chairman, if the people of our country had been sufficiently informed on this matter, there would be no need of me or anybody else making speeches. But as it is we must, every one of us