

toil for a living. I share their feelings and the feelings of the toilers of this country. They have never got a square show and a deliberate attempt has been made to stack up the powers of government and powers of taxation against them, so as to keep them down. I share that belief. I have no shame in saying it. There is nothing aristocratic about me. There is not a single ounce of blue blood in me.

But, sir, there is another reason why I shall vote against Commission government in the referendum. Whatever little help the old mother country was able to give us when we needed it so badly before the war — and I repeat that we should be forever grateful to Britain for what she gave us before the war — what hope have we of any help from her in the future, should we need it? Never, in the history of mankind upon this earth, never did a country suffer as did the mother country this past ten years, since 1938. Never did people sacrifice as the British people sacrificed and as they are sacrificing today. They gave their all. They threw it into the fight gladly; they stripped themselves to the bare bone; everything went until they were naked and empty of hand. The whole world has stood in speechless amazement over the prodigious sacrifice of the British people; such effort, such sacrifice and such courage! I am reminded of the words of Winston Churchill, "Let no man underrate the abiding power of the British Empire, not because you see 46 million people on our island harassed about their food supplies, or because we have difficulty in re-starting our industries and export trade after six years of war effort, do not suppose we shall not come through these dark days as we have come through the years of the past or that a half century from now you will not see 70 or 80 million Britons spread about the world united in the defence of justice and way of life." These are brave words, sir, and true words. Britain will come back. Of that I have no doubt. It will not be soon, but she will receive help from her sons and

friends around the world and she will strive as no other people ever strove, and some day she will stand among the nations of the earth.

But meanwhile, we here in Newfoundland must vote this spring, this very spring, to decide what form of government we shall have for our country. We cannot lean on the old mother country. We cannot look to her for help. We may have some in our midst who are satisfied to have Britain share her poverty with us. We may have some who would hold on to the Commission of Government in the hope that through them Britain would, out of her own poverty and need, help us if we should need help. I hope that the number of such persons is small in this country.

Sir, I shall vote for this motion to place these two forms of government before our people in the referendum this spring, for I know it is our people's right to decide. I have no right whatever to deny our people their right to vote for responsible government or Commission government if they wish, and I shall not oppose their having that right. I shall vote against these two forms of government myself in the referendum. I shall hope for a chance to vote for a form of government nearer to their hearts' desire.

Mr. Fogwill I move we adjourn until tomorrow Tuesday.

Mr. Higgins Might I interject, unless some members here now intimate they are prepared to deal with this motion now, it might be as well to defer it; some members who intend to speak to it are not ready.

Mr. Chairman I am entirely in the hands of members. It seems to me you are in a position of what I may term an unpleasant alternative. The sands of time are running out and from that standpoint I must assume that time is of the essence. However, I am entirely in the hands of members and with that in mind then, I put the motion to adjourn.

[The Convention adjourned]

January 20, 1948

Mr. Chairman Before proceeding to deal with the order paper, I would like to say, Major Cashin, arising out of two matters to which you directed my attention yesterday afternoon, that I have inquired into both and I am about to report progress. With regard to the question on the New-

foundland Savings Bank, you will appreciate the fact that it envisages what the position of the bank and the depositors would be in the event of this country becoming the tenth province of Canada by the superimposition of the BNA Act. The question requires the knowledge, on the part of