

have not gone in the right way about it to tell these people, our own kith and kin, what ignominy we have been subjected to in the past years. Don't get the idea that Great Britain, whom we are all prepared to love and serve and die for, is down and out, because mark you she will rise from that crippled state in which she at present finds herself. All we need is for our people to get together and forget these petty little differences, and start to fight our own battles in our own way, and put men at the head of the government who know exactly what they are doing, good hard-headed businessmen — not mealy-mouthed politicians who think politics are so filthy and dirty that they would not touch it. No, you want hard-headed businessmen like Crosbie. I am not saying he would be any good there, but men like him, who would be prepared to fight. If you do fall by the wayside, Great Britain will be ready and willing to help. Please, I want to make that correction, Great Britain is still *Great Britain*.

Mr. Higgins As I was the one who brought up the matter, I would like to have your ruling. Is it right and proper to say that members who have copies of this transcript might refer to them for the purpose of refreshing their memories, and then they could answer?

Mr. Chairman They have no right to give the exact words used.

Mr. Bailey I cannot understand why we as a Convention cannot get this information. Seven members got it. Is it because our intelligence is not as good, or our honour is not as good? I am sure the Dominions Office did not specify that that information should be kept from us. If everything else is outside our terms of reference, I think this is inside. I move that this information be given in camera to this Convention.

Mr. Reddy I second that motion.

Mr. Chairman I rule the motion out of order.

Mr. Crosbie To settle this question I move that the Dominions Office be asked if the information can be given this Convention.

Mr. Job I second that motion.

Mr. Chairman It would be better, possibly, if this motion were made in regular session. As the matter is not of very grave importance, I put the motion now, so that we can discuss it. Is the committee ready for the question?

Mr. Higgins Is this the position, that the copy we have here is an entirely different one from the

Dominions Office copy? Have they seen our copy?

Mr. Chairman Presumably they can send out theirs.

Mr. Job We could send our copy and see if they have any objection. It seems a very grave question; either there was or was not an undertaking given to keep this private. If there was an undertaking we would disgrace ourselves if we committed a breach of confidence.

Mr. Chairman Will you permit me to read the resolution? The motion is that the copy of the proceedings now in the possession of the London delegation be sent to the Dominions Office when transcribed, with a request that permission be given to disclose this copy to the Convention and/or the public.

[The motion carried]

Mr. Chairman Mr. Secretary, will you have the necessary copy prepared so that I can take it to His Excellency at the earliest possible moment?

Mr. Starkes Mr. Chairman, the situation is getting clearer. Bit by bit we are beginning to see just where our country stands. Slowly we are commencing to see the light.

I expect to see another depression in this country. All the figures and all the talk in the world is not going to drive it out of my mind that a depression will come upon us before many years are over. I do not believe that our present earning power is going to continue. In the past few years, thanks to the war, our country and our people have enjoyed greater prosperity than they ever dreamed of. Some prospered more than others, but all shared in the prosperity to some extent. I can see the handwriting on the wall — that prosperity is going to pass away. We have heard a lot of talk about our terms of reference. The most important words in those terms of reference to my mind are these: "and bearing in mind the extent to which our prosperity is the result of the war." That is what we have to bear in mind all the time — that our present prosperity, such as it is, is the result of the war. The war is now over, or almost over, and the cause is removed, so the result will pass away also. We would not be very patriotic if we blinked these facts out of sight....

The time has not yet come for us to discuss forms of government. We are still trying to get all the facts we can, so that we can base our opinion