

as well, why do 25,000 Canadians leave Canada yearly to go to the United States? Mr. Chairman and gentlemen I stand to support the amendment. **Mr. Figary** ....I have followed the debate on the resolution presented by Mr. Smallwood to this Convention, and I do not object to the principle involved in the resolution; I feel we should have that information, and all the information we can get on any form of government. I and the people of my district want it, and we must get it, so we can be in a position to decide what form of government will be best so as to give our people a square deal. A government for all citizens of this country and not for a few.

In the past a lot of our people were given a rotten deal, they have been hungry and cold, and there is no doubt about that; I have been in homes and seen it. I have seen children crying for bread and none to give them, seen children and even adults use flour sacks in order to cover their nakedness. These people did not endure this because they were too lazy to work; there was no work to be had, and those who did work were paid a shamefully low wage, and the fishermen received next to nothing for their fish, barely enough for an existence. There was nothing that could be done about it, as at that time organised labour got little assistance or recognition from any source, indeed it was frowned upon in many places. Since Commission of Government has controlled this country there has been a lot of improvement as regards recognition of organised labour. This does not mean that the government has in all cases favoured the organisation of the workers, there have been times when they opposed and actually fought against the right of workers to organise and bargain collectively. In the main, however, they have generally encouraged the idea of collective bargaining and have set up machinery whereby employer and employee can meet and discuss their difficulties. At the present, I am somewhat in favour of the present form of government until we can determine a better form for Newfoundland.

There has been considerable debate on the resolution and I have the feeling the majority are in favour of the amendment presented by Mr. Penney.... I want to associate myself with previous speakers. I too came to this Convention with an open mind, and I shall vote only for that which I know will benefit the people of our

country. I do not intend to be carried away or swayed by every wind and doctrine. I will vote on the vital issues of this Convention according to what I believe to be in the best interests of our country. I agree with the principle of this resolution, and it's really too bad that it had to come up at this time. When the time is opportune, this Convention will not overlook this matter, and will obtain the terms on which Canada would receive us, or should I say, on which we would be willing for Canada to join us. A lot of time has been wasted on this matter, and I do not see any advantage in discussing it further....

No person can carry me beyond what I deem advisable on this question. I can decide that when we have received and studied the terms of confederation with Canada. I do not like people asking me how I am going to vote (I mean outside of this chamber), that's my business, and I am only going to be led by my own conscience, whether it's voting for confederation or any other form of government. I see no alternative but to vote for the amendment....

**Mr. Cranford** Mr. Chairman, while listening to the debate on the motion now before the House, it has given me cause to ask the question, are we inconsistent? In other words, do we practise what we preach? The vote now pending will decide my question.

When we had responsible government, it was very often considered that spending money on trips both local and foreign, together with other similar acts, would lead to the financial collapse of our country. That collapse did come. Responsible government was ousted from power and Commission of Government took its place, and in the opinion of some of us the Commission has not lived up to expectations. Hence a National Convention has been inaugurated to investigate our country's economic and financial condition, and before we have got anywhere we are confronted with a resolution to send delegates to Canada to seek terms of confederation. In my opinion we are asked to favour the pleasure of a few gentlemen on a joyride at the expense of the taxpayers. Now why do the same thing that past governments had done that we did not approve of? And why send a delegation anywhere out of the country at any time? Why not let our actions be an example for any future government?

Let the terms of confederation be sought by all