

people, should not have to worry or know want. They play their part. I feel their government should have no restriction in facilitating the marketing of their products and that all bargaining powers should be applied to this purpose.

Those who would deprive the people of self-government advance a great variety of reasons, and perhaps their greatest and most effective one is the recalling of the misdeeds of the last years of responsible government; whilst in the same breath they say, "Responsible government! Why, what has that to offer?" It is when I hear such remarks that I doubt the wisdom of restoring self-government, for it portrays, as I see it, a great misconception of the duties and functions of government. The reason for this is given in the fact that we secured national government before we had come to appreciate its capabilities by a closer view of municipal government. I believe that to be largely correct, but I try to outweigh it with the advancement, in our age, of education, and in the great advantages of radio and press distribution. I further try to outweigh it by the ability of our people to grasp the intricacies of any situation. I know they can do it. I have visited people's homes where, in the war days, the advancement of the allied armies was charted and recorded with marvelous enlightenment. I have been astounded at their ability to constructively estimate world reactions. We are indeed a great people, but we have to outlive a period of our history when we were a spoiled people. We have to outlive a period in our history when we believed our government to be capable of unlimited handouts, when we seemed to shut our eyes to the fact that a government can give back to the people only part of that which they take from them. We did not seem to realise that the more gratuities a government bestows, the more taxes it must collect. This was not a deliberate wrong, but it certainly was an error and it gave rise to serious reactions. And now, as we consider a return to self-government, we must check the credentials of our people as well as the resources of our country. My faith in both I have already indicated.

The investigations of the committees and the reports submitted on our natural resources are very encouraging. There is evident, however, a dependency of too large a proportion of our population on the main industries. This tends to

make our position highly susceptible to world conditions. It is to be hoped that the future will see a greater application of our energies to the elimination of many items from our import list and their manufacture in this country. We could even start a button factory. Time does not permit me to repeat the many encouraging features of these reports. I feel, however, that your memory will serve you well, and that they are set in permanent vision before your mind.

Generally, I would say that Newfoundland's position today is a coveted one and that our progress offers further promise. We have a better marketing system for our fish, which should serve us well in the years ahead, whilst consolidating our position on these markets, and we continued to enjoy high price for this commodity. How unlike this is to other countries, some of which were marketing their products, for example wheat, at slightly in excess of one-third of its current market value in an effort to hold down post-war business. Let us stop a moment to appreciate our position.

It was a satisfying feature, in the days of committee meetings, to see the way many of our industrialists considered themselves a part of this land of ours; to hear them tell of things that give promise and to weigh their earnestness and determination in developing industries. In one instance only did we meet an antagonistic attitude and what could be described as a refusal to co-operate. I take this opportunity to interject a word of praise to the civil servants who assisted the committees on which I worked; and of whose integrity and ability I formed a very high opinion. It is matters such as these that strengthens one's outlook and faith.

Yes, Newfoundland's position today bears little or no resemblance to its past; and confidence, hope and trust should swell the hearts of her people. Today, the great nations of the world shudder under the weight of debts contracted because of war, and countries of our own kindred have the sufferings of want added to their sorrows. Nor in the near future, will this condition be corrected. Through it all, through their dismantled industries, through their disrupted mode of life, through their great human sacrifice, they cling tenaciously to the right of self-government. They show a belief in themselves, a belief in their neighbours and a perseverance that will lead