

parison of the work accomplished by Commission government and our old responsible governments, we must bear in mind the unprecedented revenues the former had to work with, as against the meagre revenues of the old days. Also, that prior to wartime prosperity, we still had dole under Commission government.

Most people realise now that the stabilisation of fish prices was not due to Commission government; and to those who talk of our additional social services, I would say that the millions spent on dole made necessary many of these services — I have in mind the undernourishment of our people as a cause of the present high cost of Public Health and Welfare. I feel that these highly-spoken-of additional services may be a burden of expense which any future government may very well find it difficult to maintain. This degrading dole business brought to many of our people a lack of that independence and initiative so characteristic of Newfoundlanders, many of whom are now willing to wait for government assistance or accept bonuses from other countries. Mr. Chairman, Commission government personnel, as someone has said, are but puppets of the Dominions Office and are not at present in a position to assure us of those guarantees given in 1934; and considering the magnificent role played by Britain in the recent war, we must realise that she is in the worst position of her history, so we cannot expect her to underwrite our finances. Most of the evils of Commission were due to the set-up rather than the personnel, as in all matters of policy they were subject to the Dominions Office, and in my opinion the English Commissioners were never left here long enough to get a thorough grasp of the problems of our economy or the requirements of our people. Certainly, they could not expect to get a knowledge of the former, with their behind-the-scenes policy, having no consultations with the men who make possible our trade and commerce, and most certainly not the latter, when people were completely ignored and disregarded on all matters pertaining to their welfare. To put it simply, it is practical dictatorship from Dominions Office, the heads of which were quite satisfied with balanced budgets, and that no loud protests reached the British Parliament. In passing from Commission government, I might say that we fully appreciate Britain's war effort, and

in her emergency of 1941 any Newfoundland government would have approved the lease of bases to the USA. But we feel that she should not have given territorial concessions for 99 years without our consent; and might have given them for the duration, as Iceland did.

Mr. Chairman, before I deal with responsible government, it might be well to point out that whilst the primary function of government is to provide rules and safeguards for law and order, to secure freedom and liberty and protect the rights of the people, it should also provide an efficient administrative service, advance the causes of public health, education and other social services; provide communications, endeavour to raise living standards, assist trade and commerce and help develop natural resources. When this country first got responsible government, its population was something over one-third what it is today, whilst its revenue was only about one-eightieth. Yet our forebears had the courage to want to govern themselves. Today, with a record revenue of \$40 million, when we are enjoying the greatest prosperity in our history, some of our people are so lethargic as to shun the responsibilities of self-government. We undoubtedly have made steady progress since the beginning of this century. We have a much larger population; our standard of living is higher, and many of our natural resources are being developed, and it is time that we realised our importance. We should remember that from the very discovery of this island we have had something that others wanted. In our early history, it was our teeming waters, today it is the key position of strategic value in the defence of the western hemisphere. The recent war really put us on the map, and our country has become known and its value appreciated by the occupation forces from all over, both the USA and Canada. This factor alone, gives us a strong bargaining power. It is quite unnecessary for me to dwell further on this point, as it has been thoroughly covered by other delegates, particularly by Mr. Higgins and the Hon. R. B. Job. Coupled with this is another factor of equal importance, the vast mineral deposits of our northern dependency, Labrador. This point has been stressed by Major Cashin, but it well merits repetition, without becoming tedious.

Considering these facts, gentlemen, which