

I don't believe for a single moment that there will be a delegation going to Washington. Why be hypocritical about it, or try to bluff about it? Why say there will be one, when I don't believe it? We may take a very dim view of the Commission government or the Dominions Office, but whether it is dim or bright, the fact is that they both told us that negotiation of trade and tariff agreements is a matter between governments. I don't know whether they are right or wrong, but they ought to know what they are talking about, so I don't think this delegation will go. I will vote for it to go, and I will be sorry if it does not go, because I am a free trader. I can't make myself any plainer than that....

Mr. HillierI feel a bit unhappy over these resolutions and negotiations, because, rightly or wrongly, the feeling comes to me that negotiations on national matters such as trade and tariffs are matters for government with government, and we definitely are not a government. Moreover, I feel that we are somewhat confusing the people of Newfoundland, and I am sure that we have no desire to do that. Whether I am right or wrong, I leave that to those who are better versed in public life and politics than I am.

Mr. Cranford In rising in support of the motion I do so with the feeling that I possess as good a British spirit as the members of the British government that made the base deal with the United States for 99 years. I feel sure the British government knew at the time they made that deal for such a long time, which to us means forever, that they were placing us in the front line of battle in the event of the United States becoming involved in war, whether Britain would be with them or not, and in view of that knowledge, and considering the United States to be on the most friendly terms with Great Britain, it behoves us to take advantage and endeavour to be placed in the front line in securing markets for our products, so we can enjoy a decent living....

Mr. Vardy While I am in full accord with the spirit of the motion, I am also of the opinion that you were within your rights in rejecting the motion at the beginning. You went strictly by the terms of reference. I think this will put the Commission of Government to a test. They will be given the privilege or otherwise of throwing it out. I have always felt, particularly for the past 14 years, that Newfoundland, with our foreign

politics so much controlled by three great powers, should have a government of its own, of a strictly limited number, and within an international group of three. In that I am in full accord with my old friend Mr. Job. Now I cannot see eye to eye with a lot that has been said, because I think we are getting things confused. Some of the speakers have confused matters pertaining to the sending of a trade delegation, with a group that we may or may not send to seek union with the United States. Trade is a matter strictly between governments, and it is just as well to face up to facts. But I will be glad to see any delegation going there. I have no hard feelings against anyone in the United States. I am reminded of the fact that George Washington's father was a great Englishman, and I think we have reached the time in life when, in the very near future, not only those in Canada and America must come together more closely, but Newfoundland must eventually come into some kind of a union with these great powers on this side of the Atlantic.

Some speakers have criticised the idea of sending a delegation to Ottawa, but seem to favour sending a delegation to Washington. I am not in that group. I try to be fair towards every subject brought before this Convention, and to be fair to the people of this country we must give sober thought to any resolution that's brought in. We have been severely criticised for turning the former resolution down, but I am of the opinion that the time is premature for sending this delegation to Washington. This is a very delicate matter, and we could get ourselves embroiled into some pretty hard feelings, because when it comes to changing matters of this kind, it strikes very deep. I know we need three meals a day, but I believe these things could be settled around the table, and a closer union than now exists could be brought about between Canada, USA and Newfoundland, and that it would improve the future standard of living for the people of this country....

I don't want to take up too much time over this matter, but if it is possible to send a trade delegation — and I am firmly of the opinion that it is not — we won't be made a joke of; the joke will be on them, because they are not willing to face up to the grim realities. But I still believe, knowing them as I do, that the Commission will turn this resolution down. It is within their power to do so.