

delegation shall proceed to England for the purpose aforesaid the Commission of Government has undertaken to give all possible assistance in making transport and other arrangements for the delegates;

And Whereas this Convention, in view of the importance of the matters hereunder outlined are of opinion that such a delegation should be despatched;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that this Convention request His Excellency the Governor in Commission to acquaint His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of their desire to send a delegation consisting of the Chairman and six of its members to the United Kingdom at the earliest possible moment to discuss with the said United Kingdom Government the various matters set forth hereunder;

Be It Further Resolved that as soon as His Excellency the Governor in Commission informs us of the willingness of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to accede to our request, said delegation shall be elected by secret ballot;

And Be It Finally Resolved that the Steering Commission be requested to prepare a detailed statement of the questions to be submitted to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom; such statement of questions to be submitted to the National Convention for confirmation before being delivered to His Excellency the Governor in Commission for transmission to the United Kingdom.

Matters to be Discussed by the Delegation with The United Kingdom Government

1. National debt;
2. Military, Naval and Air Bases in this country;
3. Gander airport;
4. Interest-free loans;
5. Any matters relating to the future economic position of Newfoundland.

Mr. Hollett I do not wish to go into the merits or demerits of the resolution. I made some remarks relative to this on Wednesday.¹ It is absolutely essential to get information which we have not been able to get from the authorities in Newfoundland. I see no way except by direct contact between this Convention and the Govern-

ment of the United Kingdom. The only way is by means of a duly appointed delegation from the Convention.... The resolution contravenes no constitutional right we possess by reason of the fact that we are a part of the British Empire, definitely governed by the United Kingdom government through the Dominions Office and the Commission of Government. More than that, we have confirmation from the Commission of Government that we would be quite in order in appointing a delegation to interview His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. I have the right to reply to any criticism. If any member wishes to make an amendment he can do so. I have great pleasure in moving the resolution.

Mr. Butt I second the motion of the member for Grand Falls.... When this Convention opened, I put forward a notice of question concerning our national debt and the possible way of financing a reconstruction programme. I was not thinking in terms of asking Great Britain what she was going to do for us. It came from a mind which remembered how the debt had been built up; which had, I hope, a sense of perspective after reading Newfoundland history; and which remembered a statement of an Englishman, who had read English and Newfoundland history, and said, "I would not like to have to decide whether England has been of more benefit to Newfoundland, than Newfoundland has been to England."

I had a whole series of questions, but older and more experienced men in the Convention and out of it, seemed to think the questions were of such vital importance that they would have to be dealt with seriously before the Convention closed and that I should leave them until a later date. I accepted the position. I think these men were right. The time has now come when these questions will be put forward. A little later we had a discussion on the Interim Report of the Fisheries Committee. I said the question of how we should go about exploring the possibility of having some benefit accrue to Newfoundland, other than came from the construction and maintenance of bases, should be examined. Later still, I voted against sending a delegation to Canada to discuss federal union for two main reasons. Every instinct in me rebelled against even the possibility of creating the impression that this was an indication we had once again reverted to the status of supplicants.

¹February 26, 1947, p. 315.