

a guide as a cool head. But the cool head, the analytical mind, the wide vision, all will be necessary. I realised this clearer than ever the other day. When re-reading that classic on representative government by John Stuart Mill, I came across a passage not inappropriate to this occasion, a passage worthy of serious consideration by each member of the Convention. It reads as follows: "To determine the form of government most suitable to any particular people", says Mill, "we must be able, among the defects and shortcomings which belong to that people, to distinguish those that are the immediate impediment to progress; to discover what it is which, as it were, stops the way. The best government for them is the one which tends most to give them that for want of which they cannot advance, or advance only in a lame and lopsided manner. We must not, however, forget", John Stuart Mill continues, "the reservation necessary in all things which have for their object improvement, or progress; namely that in seeking the good which is needed, no damage, or as little as possible, be done to that already possessed."

Those are wise words; they were written some 85 years ago, but they are very much up to date. I would commend them to the earnest consideration of every member of the Convention. They will help you in your deliberations.

Gentlemen, you are honoured men. Your fellow countrymen have called you to a very big job. You have their confidence. They trust you. They are expecting great things of you. When you have fulfilled your task as members of the National Convention, they know that they will be called upon to exercise their civic responsibilities. Then one of, if not the most important election in the history of Newfoundland will take place. Your fellow countrymen look to you for guidance.

They look to you for guidance during your deliberations. They hope for your guidance when you return to your homes. They know you will be fully informed on all the aspects of all the problems confronting Newfoundland. They know that on the next occasion they go to the polling, they will have the destiny of the rising generation and following generations in their hands. They are relying on you in a very special manner to help them in every way to discharge that great responsibility. It is an aspect of your work which I know you are not likely to overlook. The whole of your work is preliminary but very closely associated with that forthcoming election.

But your fellow countrymen will not by any means be the only people interested in your activities. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the whole civilised world is keenly interested. I feel sure that you will be fortified in your work in the knowledge that you have millions of well-wishers beyond the long and rugged coastline of your native land. You have the good wishes of all your fellow countrymen. It is with that knowledge that I would have you go on your way, and in declaring the National Convention open, I trust that unborn generations of Newfoundlanders will rise to sing your praises for the grand job you did. That God's richest blessings will rest on all your labours is my earnest prayer.

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**Mr. Chairman** Gentlemen of the National Convention, if it pleases you I should accept a motion for the adjournment of the Convention until 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon when a motion for the presenting an address of loyalty to His Majesty and thanks to His Excellency will be presented to the Convention.

*[The Convention adjourned]*

#### September 12, 1946

**Mr. Job** Mr. Chairman, I rise with much pleasure to move a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his very fine opening address yesterday to the National Convention, a momentous occasion in the history of our beloved country.

We are now passing a landmark which I sincerely hope and believe will be the commencement of a period in which the people of all classes and denominations in Newfoundland will make

a new start. Where this journey will end no one can at the moment forecast, but at any rate it would seem likely to eventuate at some not far distant date in an encouragement to every individual of voting age to take a much wider and deeper interest than they have done in the past in the management of their country's affairs.

I am not going to review our past errors of omission and commission at this juncture; but it will be necessary during our deliberations to refer