

Daily Express. True, it is an opposition paper — it probably wishes to make political capital out of the facts. But does that dispute the existence of these facts? Does it prove that they are not a true statement of conditions? Gentlemen, it is my opinion that we should not waste much time on this report. The answers to our questions could have been obtained by means of a registered letter.

I close my remarks with this message: the people amongst us who love freedom, who love the traditions of this fine land, who cherish our traditions, must prepare themselves to defend these things if they would preserve them. At this very moment the lines of battle are drawn up, and walking amongst us are those whose burning ambition it is to see this country passed into the hands of strangers; to haul down the flag of our fathers and replace it with an alien one; to make

the Ode to Newfoundland a forgotten thing on the lips of our children, and to extinguish the torch which our liberty-loving ancestors cherished for nearly 100 years. All these things they will try to do under a banner to which they have nailed the dollar sign. But I tell them they will not succeed. Once before in our history our country had to meet such an attack. Once before there were those who sought to destroy her identity and sabotage her liberty, but a far poorer country and a less enlightened people gave them their answer. Shall we of today, blessed inhabitants of one of the most solvent countries in the world, fail where our fathers triumphed? I feel that I have the endorsement of all right-thinking Newfoundlanders with me when I say that we shall not fail.

[The committee rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

May 20, 1947

Mr. Chairman I wish to inform the House of the progress being made in connection with the matter of the arrangements for the conference between the delegation of this Convention and His Majesty's Government in Canada.

The latter part of last week the delegation met and decided to advise the Government of Canada, through His Excellency the Governor, that the delegation would wish to meet with the Canadian government as early as possible in the month of June. That presumably was communicated by His Excellency to His Majesty's Government in Canada, and I have here before me a letter which has just been handed to me by His Excellency which reads as follows:

Sir:

I write to inform you that, owing to various important events that are to take place in Canada during the early part of June, the earliest date that would be convenient for the Canadian Government to receive the Delegation from the National Convention would be either June 25th or July 2nd.

I would be glad if you would inform me

respecting the preference of the Delegation in the matter.

Yours faithfully

Sgd.: Gordon Macdonald
Governor.

That, presumably, is the substance of a despatch from His Majesty's Government in Canada to the Governor in Newfoundland. It is a development which I may say I anticipated to some extent. Many of you are aware of the fact that President Truman of the United States is likely to visit Ottawa in the early part of June, which will doubtless take up a considerable portion of the time of the Canadian government for three or four days, and a little later there is a very large congress which will meet in Ottawa, and which will bring into the city I believe about 150,000 pilgrims. These proceedings will occupy a considerable period of time, and the Canadian government will be of course engaged to some extent in them. I would ask the Canadian delegation to meet me in my office when the House adjourns this evening.

Report of the London Delegation:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate this National Convention on its wis-

dom in sending a delegation to London. I want to congratulate, very sincerely, the delegation itself,

¹Volume II:448.