

of this Convention. And the other day Mr. Harrington gave a similar presentation to you. I am quite certain you are all fully aware that there is a pledge, spoken on behalf of the British government by the Secretary of State for Dominions Affairs at that time, Mr. Emrys-Evans, who in words retailed to you by Mr. Hollett (and I have not the form in front of me) to the best of my knowledge said, "The whole policy of the British government is centered around that pledge." And in my opinion "the machinery" mentioned by Mr. Emrys-Evans must have been and could only have been this National Convention — the machinery which the British government was going to set up to enable the people of this country to make their choice if they wanted responsible government returned or not. There can be no doubt whatsoever, Mr. Chairman, in your mind, as a lawyer, or in my learned friend Mr. Bradley's mind, as a lawyer, and in your gentlemen's minds, who by this time are practically sea lawyers, that this is correct. That legislation, thank God, is our magna carta. Had that statement not been made, had that legislation not been in the form it was in, then truly we might have been in a tough spot in Newfoundland. That is our charter of liberty, that when we are self-supporting we can demand back again our own free government.

I do not intend at this late hour to go over again all the reasons so very carefully detailed by members of this Convention. I congratulate the members of this Convention for the very fine presentations that have given us in the past few days of the reasons why they were going to recommend that these forms of government be put on the ballot paper. At the same time, while it appears to be apparent that this motion is going to pass unanimously, it would appear the only member who spoke against it, as far as I could ascertain, was my learned friend Mr. Bradley, and with the substitution of the new motion I take it that that meets with his approval. His basic objection appeared to be the form of the motion.

I cannot help drawing the Convention's attention to the inconsistency of some members here who stated they are going to vote for this motion recommending two forms of government — responsible government and Commission of Government — and who at the same time, whilst making the recommendation, state they do not

believe in either form. It is rather an extraordinary thing that, gentlemen, to have 16 or 18 members making up their minds how they are going to advise their fellow-countrymen to do something they themselves would not do. Truly, "inconsistency, thou art a jewel."

Now as I said, it appears that a great majority are going to support this motion and it would also appear that on the preference vote a great majority are going to state their preference for responsible government. To those others of you, those who whilst voting for the motion are not particularly inclined to express their preference — to those I particularly address myself, to convince you why you must support this motion and express your preference for responsible government. I say that because the second last speaker, Rev. Mr. Burry, in giving his reasons against responsible government, talked about the fear that was in his bones, and I want to take the fear out of Rev. Burry's bones, and out of all the bones of all the members who have any hesitancy about expressing preference for the only form of government we should recommend. The best way I can do that is to quote to you the words of the high prophet himself, Mr. Smallwood. These words are entirely Mr. Smallwood's and I hope he will understand that in quoting him I have every reason to congratulate him on the excellent verbiage, and the complete way he put the case for those who are backing responsible government. I want to play back the record. The voice is that of Mr. Higgins, the words are those of J. R. Smallwood:

We have the resources. God was good to us when He made Newfoundland. Our coastal waters are literally alive with fish of all kinds; why, if all the fish teeming in our waters were to swim at one time into our greatest bay — Placentia Bay — they would fill the great indraught until there was not a single drop of water left in it. A new mathematics would have to be invented to count them. We have the greatest seal herds in the world. Our salmon are the best in the world. We have as yet barely scratched the surface of our fish resources. Our water powers, both in Newfoundland and Labrador, have already developed vast hydro-electric power for industrial and commercial purposes, and are capable of many times their present yield. We