

like ourselves, and whatever other delegates may do I am not prepared to say to that Newfoundland, "No, my mind is closed against it, closed against federation." I am not prepared to say to them that I won't listen to anything connected with confederation. I am prepared to listen to whatever terms can be found. I am not prepared to take any attitude against the resolution at the present time. I for one cannot see how this Convention can turn a deaf ear to this resolution. Many of our people believe in it. Many others who may not yet believe in it now, if they get the terms, may yet believe in it. I am not prepared to deny them the chance to get the facts. If confederation is to be a possibility in Newfoundland, special terms would doubtless be necessary. If the Convention should decide that a delegation should be sent to Ottawa, I think in all fairness, another delegation should be sent to England. Certainly there are possibilities of her helping her oldest charge, and it is now that we want to find this out. If I voted against this resolution I would

be voting against getting facts, so I am voting to support it. When this resolution is passed it will give us the information we want. Then, and not until then, will I make up my mind on this whole confederation business, and the people as a whole will make up their minds. I do not commit myself to this. I do not see how we can do so. This is our duty, sir. Let us as members sent here by the people perform that duty.

Mr. Newell I was about to rise, sir, to propose the adjournment of this debate. It is not my intention to speak on this subject, and I do not rise to ask precedence for myself tomorrow, but there is a very real danger that the merits of the question under discussion may be confused with the personalities involved in that discussion, and I think, sir, perhaps we can all come to this debate on the morrow with clearer minds and perhaps more disciplined tongues. I therefore move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Vincent I beg to second the motion.
[*The Convention adjourned*]

October 29, 1946

Mr. Chairman Orders of the day: Mr. Hollett, committee of the whole on the report of the Education Committee.

Mr. Hollett Before proceeding into committee of the whole, there was a point raised which was of very great interest not only to members of the Convention, but to the whole country generally, and which should be disposed of one way or another before we go into a committee of the whole to discuss the reports on education and forestry. If we could get around to discussing that

particular matter and deciding the issue first we would probably make more progress. I move, therefore, that the discussion on the Education and Forestry Reports be allowed to stand over, and Mr. Newell be allowed to proceed with his resolution, and that we resume the debate on the motion to send a delegate to Canada.

[*Debate in committee of the whole on the reports of the Education and Forestry committees was deferred*]

Motion to send a Delegation to Canada¹

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Newell proceeds would it be in order to ask you, or alternatively Professor Wheare, to express an opinion as to the propriety, or rather the authority of the Convention's sending a delegation to confer with the Government of Canada, assuming always that the Convention decided to send such a delegation? I think perhaps it would be quite helpful to the gentlemen here if we had some knowledge as to our authority, should the motion be adopted, to proceed...

Mr. Chairman Do you refer your question to me as Chairman, or to Professor Wheare, Mr.

Smallwood? I will answer if you like.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I would like an opinion from both of you.

Mr. Chairman You are not taking any chances!

Mr. Smallwood Quite, sir.

Mr. Chairman Insofar as my opinion is concerned, Mr. Smallwood, I think it is perfectly competent for the Convention, if it so desires, to send a delegation to Ottawa, if the Canadian government is prepared to receive such a delegation, to elicit information as to the terms and conditions upon the basis of which the Canadian government may be prepared to consider the

¹Above, p. 93.