

select committee be appointed to draft such address in reply.

In supporting the motion I cannot but help make note of the fitness of the previous speaker for this occasion in view of the epoch-making nature of this unique constitutional assembly. For history is being made today as well as yesterday, and Mr. Job is very much a part of that history. He is one of the few living members of the former Legislative Council, which in this very building less than a score of years ago made laws for Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders. Furthermore, two or three years past, when comment on our confused status was frequent, Mr. Job in communications to the daily press suggested a body somewhat similar to the present National Convention to discuss our affairs; and it must be a source of pride and satisfaction to him now to realise that his suggestions undoubtedly had some, if not considerable bearing on subsequent developments. Finally, Mr. Job comes from a family long associated with the life of this country in all its phases and aspects; he himself speaks with the wisdom of many years of the same experience and the sincerity of his words on this occasion cannot be questioned.

For myself, I speak as a young man relatively unexperienced and untried in politics and government, but willing to learn and eager to serve to the best of my ability the land in which I was born. My family too has had long associations with Newfoundland. Their part may have been less spectacular, but nonetheless heroic. They were the good fishermen and farmers, tradesmen and sailors, the good wives and the good mothers. They worked hard for what they got; they loved this land for the work it gave them, and the freedom which in time they won because of their work and their zeal. The family antecedents of each man here fall into one of these two groups. Now the wheel has come full circle and we are here to serve their memory.

The Governor's speech, as indeed was expected, fully lives up to the forthright, energetic and sincere individual whom we have met and heard in recent months. Being appointed to his responsible position at such a critical time, he has made every effort to acquaint himself first-hand with the country and the people, and not even Mercury, the winged messenger of mythology, could have travelled as fast and so far in the

interests of a better understanding, than Sir Gordon has since his arrival. He has spoken of the honour and the responsibility that is ours, and the great opportunity we have for selfless patriotism. And he has refreshed our memories concerning the ancient glories of this, the people's house, and the honourable giants of men who in the past rendered noble service in the cause of their fatherland. In truth, I may say, as many other Newfoundlanders are saying, we are glad that Sir Gordon Macdonald, "a man's man", is amongst us at this hour.

A moment ago I said history is being made today. It prompts me to wonder if men who make history truly realise it at the time. I doubt if they do for such a realisation is almost enough to unman them. Still, whether we realise it or not, history is being made and it will continue to be made when this Convention has been disbanded and dispersed; and our names are on the records of history, for good or ill, and for the inspiration or dismay of those who come after us.

Newfoundlanders have lived under many administrations and many forms of constitutional assemblies, but search as we may, we can find no precedent for the present body of which we are members. Yet that fact which may have been a concern to some of us, need not be a deterrent; for even the most conservative man will admit there must be a first time for everything. Inasmuch as a man, according to Warburg, "cannot be a conservative until he has something to lose," I might say, perhaps, that a man cannot be other things until he has something to gain. And I say, let no man in this house be swayed by the thought of what he may lose or gain at this most critical juncture of our history.

There are older men here with a first-hand knowledge of days that are past, and young men like myself, whose knowledge for the most part is confined to what we have read and heard. There are men here who have been in government, and men who hope to be in it in the future. There are men here who cleave to certain ideas and turn away from other beliefs, and Walter Lippman remarks that "Men are much more likely to see the truth in that which they love than in that which they hate." Therefore there is need for calmness and unprejudice; for patience and tolerance. What we need to bring to this Convention, more than an open mind, is a fair mind that will respect