

our hearts, "God guard thee Newfoundland."

Mr. Chairman The motion is before the Chair. Is the Convention ready for the question?

Mr. Hillier Mr. Chairman, I listened with very great interest to the different speakers. They have shown much enthusiasm for the cause they are sponsoring. I do not propose to take up much time in connection with the report before us. I merely wish to say that I support the idea of placing before the people the two forms, if I may call them so, which are contained in this resolution, because I feel the people have a right to make one of these their choice. But I could not wholeheartedly support this resolution, Mr. Chairman, and I think that it might so happen that the other form of government, if that may be so termed a form of government, which is uppermost in the minds of many scattered throughout Newfoundland — I would not, I say, support that motion if I thought by any chance this other form, namely confederation, will be....

Mr. Chairman If you don't mind, Mr. Hillier, I don't want to embarrass you, but ... you are required to confine your remarks to the two forms of government.

Mr. Hillier Thank you, I do not wish to be out of order.

Mr. Chairman I am not ruling you out of order, I just want to draw your attention...

Mr. Hillier I just beg to support placing before the people the two forms of government, if they may be called forms, before the people at the national referendum. Thank you.

Mr. MacDonald Mr. Chairman, in supporting Mr. Higgins' motion now before this house, I do it because I feel it is due to the people of this country to give them a choice of possible governments. How can we do otherwise? It is not being fair to the people for me or any other member of this Convention to attempt to prevent any of the electors from voting for the government of their choice, within limits, or to put it more plainly, a government within the Empire.

Ever since this Convention started I have tried to maintain a non-partisan attitude. I have tried within my humble attainments to sift out from the voluminous reports, and the equally voluminous and not always edifying arguments of the various speakers, some information which would lead me to a decision as to the forms of government to recommend to His Majesty's Government, and

indirectly to the people, that would be beneficial, and also, as I understand we are expected to do, make my own individual choice as to the particular form, that in my opinion, would be the best in the interests of our people generally. I have tried through study and my own experiences to justify my reasons for finally dealing with this question of recommendations of forms of government.

Personally, I am not greatly interested in politics, beyond seeing that the people get a square deal in their choice; I have no political axe to grind, and it is highly improbable that after this Convention is finished I will be very active in political affairs. If the Convention has taught me anything, it is that politics is not my line.

Mr. Chairman, we have in the motion before us two forms of government, responsible as it existed prior to its suspension in 1934, or that the present form of government be continued. Let us consider both in the light of the opinions of some of our people. First, responsible as prior to 1934. We had this type of government for about, I think, 80 years. During this time, we had what might be described as good, bad, and indifferent governments — it all depends on our own political leanings. We had leaders who were statesmen, not politicians; others who were politicians, not statesmen. It has been said that the difference between a statesman and a politician is that the former thinks he belongs to the state, and the latter that the state belongs to him. I am afraid we have had a few of the latter. In my own recollection of governments, going back about 50 years or so, I have seen some of our public men practically ruin themselves in their businesses, owing to the interest which they took in their public duties, as Mr. Higgins intimated. I have also heard others accused of gross incompetency and worse; I suppose it's all in this game they call politics.

During the period that Mr. Higgins refers to, when revenues were low and we carried on, he must concede the fact that the expenses of government were correspondingly low, and certainly it is no argument to compare responsible government with Commission of Government, who, while having exceedingly high revenues, also had to face exceedingly high costs of maintenance and capital expenditures.

We also sometimes forget that during the 20 years before Commission our credit was good,