

lency the Governor; possibly then from His Excellency to the Commission of Government; possibly then from the Commission of Government to the Prime Minister of Canada; all of which might take a matter of several weeks and in fact I believe would take a matter of several weeks; so that we might then picture at some future date — two or three weeks from now — a reply, through you, coming to this house to the effect that the Government of Canada will not deal with this Convention; or a reply from the Government of Canada that they will deal with this Convention. That would be the next step that this Convention would hear about, if the motion is adopted. Two or three weeks from now a reply would be brought in to us through you, sir, that the Government of Canada would or would not receive a delegation from this National Convention. If it would not receive such a delegation, then the matter dies so far as this Convention and the succeeding national referendum are concerned. On the other hand, if the Government of Canada will receive a delegation of this Convention, and to those delegates impart the terms as that government saw them, of confederation of Newfoundland with Canada, then it would still be some time after that word was received before the delegation could go. I do not see myself, in the nature of things, in the circumstances, how any such delegation could actually go before some time in December and possibly some time in the month of January. By December or by January this Convention, we hope, if it is not to sit here forever, will have received a number of reports from the committees and will have completed its debate on some of these reports and will probably have them, or nearly all of them, in hand and under discussion. These reports are the data and facts of Commission government; they are the data and facts of responsible government; the thing we lack is the facts and data of confederation. If any gentleman in this House will move that we approach the Government of the United Kingdom seeking to learn from them what help, if any, they will give this country under Commission Government, I will support that motion. If any gentleman moves that we approach the United States, not for federal union, because that is not allowed unless we pass a resolution extra-legal and extra-constitutional, and that I will not support; I will support any motion proposing any

approach to any part of the British Empire or the British Commonwealth, and if it is in the best interests of the people of this country (and I repeat that) to affiliate with Great Britain as Northern Ireland is; to affiliate with Timbuctoo or Canada if it is in the interest of the people of this country, I am for it and I will support any such motion. Because I feel that the people of this country are fully entitled to have all the facts about any kind of government, including Commission, including responsible, including union with Canada or with anyone else. I feel I have no right to deny the people those facts; I feel that this Convention has no right to deny the people of this country the facts about any kind of government that is within the British Commonwealth.

Mr. Chairman Is not your present address in the nature of a reply to this debate? The result is going to be that you are going to deprive yourself of reply. I will have to rule you out of order.

Mr. Smallwood I will not trespass a moment more upon the motion itself, but merely the amendment. I wish it could be understood by the gentlemen of this Convention, whatever they may think of me — I wish it would be understood, sir, that the amendment might, if adopted, have this result, that if in the month of October, the month of November and part of the month of December we are debating the various reports of the above committees, and perhaps carry those debates over into the month of January, perhaps February, and then, having debated Commission government and responsible government, because that's what these reports are, having then done that, we decide rather late, maybe up in the winter, that we have none of the facts of confederation. It could be a month or two months after we had decided to seek those facts from Canada before we got them. It might be up in the month or March or April before we have the facts of confederation. That is why, sir, I oppose the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Penney, on the ground that delay, for even a month or two, might result in our debating the facts of confederation in March, April or May of next year, by which time the Convention should be over and forgotten. If we are going to debate it in January we have to adopt the motion now, and that's why I oppose Mr. Penney's amendment, which I believe he moved with all sincerity and genuine motives. But if it is adopted, when the people of