

place. The questions should be supported by explanatory memoranda.

Government House,

St. John's,

18 March, 1947.

[On the suggestion of the Chairman it was moved by Mr. Jackman, seconded by Mr. Cashin and carried that the Convention resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the communication, and elect by secret ballot a delegation to proceed to England pursuant to Mr. Hollett's resolution of February 28¹]

Mr. Chairman The most expeditious way to conduct this election will be in the manner in which we conducted it some time ago. There will be no nominations, but each member will vote for six members of this Convention, whomever he chooses, and the six that stand at the top of the list will constitute the delegation.

Mr. Job We elect six men, but there is always a possibility of one of those not being available when the time comes to go. Would it be possible to elect a couple to act as alternates?

Mr. Chairman That is a matter for the Convention to consider. Of course we could always meet again if anyone was ill or otherwise unable to attend.

Mr. Bailey I wonder if the next two highest on the list could not be taken automatically? We could keep count of them, and one would automatically step into the place of the other man if anyone fell out.

Mr. Chairman The only objection I see to the suggestion would be that it is necessary to keep a record of votes cast, and it is usual to destroy the ballots immediately after the count has taken place. It is not usual to disclose the number of votes polled by each member of the Convention. Perhaps some members may not care to have the vote they polled disclosed. I can understand that.

Mr. Hickman Well, you just have the first eight recorded in the order of the total number of votes each had. The ballots could be destroyed but the records could be kept of the eight.

Mr. Chairman We can do that if someone will make a motion to that effect.

Mr. Hickman I make a motion to that effect.

Mr. Reddy I second that.

Mr. Chairman The motion is that the first eight names on the ballot be recorded, the last two to

serve as alternates to be used only if one or two of the first six cannot proceed on the delegation. Those in favour please say "aye", contrary "nay" — motion carried.

Mr. Hillier It is generally understood that those who are not prepared to go on that delegation will be excused.

Mr. Chairman If there are any members who feel that they do not care to have their names submitted to the ballot I would like them to take seats at some other part of the House. Perhaps you could sit at the table, you might be useful here in a few minutes time.

Mr. Hillier I would like to have those men stand and have their names recorded.

Mr. Chairman We will record them, but we want to separate them so that there will be no confusion.

Mr. Hannon Mr. Chairman, will these candidates have the privilege of voting?

Mr. Chairman Yes.

Mr. Job There are some members absent.

Mr. Chairman I propose to draw attention to that. Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Butt, Mr. Vardy and Mr. Goodridge are absent. I don't know anything of these gentlemen's whereabouts, except Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Higgins. I knew these two would not be here, so I got in touch with them and they are satisfied to have their names go on nomination. Mr. Butt is also satisfied that his name should be voted upon. As to the other gentlemen I can't offer any explanation as I expected them here today. Will one of the attendants go outside and find out if there are any members in the other rooms?

Mr. Newell Do we vote for six or eight?

Mr. Chairman Six.

Mr. Smallwood Would it be a good idea to have those declining sit in one row?

Mr. Chairman I am going to try to have them around the table. Some of you gentlemen who can't get seats around the table might be accommodated in those easy chairs at the end of the chamber.

Only those members who are in their regular places are to be voted for. All members who are not in their regular places will not be voted for, but all the members of this House have the right to vote for six, and six only, or you may vote for five, or one; but if you vote for seven you lose

¹Above, p. 337.