

now? If a prosperous firm in good standing today cannot tell how things are going to be say five years hence, do they throw up their hands in despair, close their doors and beg someone else to come and take over their business? When Canada, the United States and Great Britain herself were in the depths of the depression, did they do it? Of course they didn't. They kept on — they took the good with the bad, and they won their fight, just as our ancestors did when we had a bad fishery. I repeat, no man and no nation knows what the future holds. But they don't show the white feathers, they know that uncertainty is the unavoidable law of life. And their pride, their courage, and their patriotism bids them fight on. They know well that any other course is the course of cowardice and dishonour.

But why, I ask, should any one in Newfoundland talk of giving up, or talk of selling out? For what is the actual position? We are faced with no financial or economic emergency. On the contrary, we are richer than we ever were before, than we ever expected to be. And as for our future prospects, I tell you they were never brighter. I know something of the economic and financial structures of other countries, and I also know something about the position of Newfoundland, and I place myself on record as saying that I know of no other people in the world who can today face their future with more confidence and assurance, than Newfoundland. I see no shadow on the road ahead. Rather do I see continued brightness and prosperity. And when the final reports are presented to this Convention, I will prove what I say by the evidence of hard facts and figures. I know that there are with us today the prophets of doom and disaster, and they in their way are bad enough. But worse still are those whom I honestly believe are disappointed at every new sign and proof of our country's prosperity, which the investigations of this Convention are steadily producing. I cannot find words to express my utter contempt for this latter class. All I can say is that they disgrace the very name when they claim to be Newfoundlanders.

Then there is another class of individual, who give evidence of a truly strange form of political thinking — who say give us food, not votes. Feed us, and we care not what you do with us. Why, sir, one can be well fed in a gaol. And Hitler, I believe, fed his people very well. But is that an

argument for us going to gaol, or setting up a tyrannical dictatorship? I agree we must have food, but let us see that we eat that food as free men, and not as a dishonoured people, lest the food we seek turn sour in our mouths.

I know something of what people called graft in the old days, and I know something also of the things which are going on today. If you want evidence of this, I refer you to that section of the Auditor General's report which deals with the Department of Public Health and Welfare, and also the Railway Department, and you will get an indication of what I mean. I assure you that if the whole story of the things which are taking place today under the present regime were exposed, the people of this country would be shocked as they have never been before. Why, Mr. Chairman, there is at present on the table of this house the report of the Transportation Committee, and in this instance alone we find that a sum of no less than \$1 million per year is being sacrificed, or should I say sabotaged, with no more consideration or foresight than if it were so many cents. In a recent interview with the Commissioner for Public Utilities we were coolly informed that this obligation had been fastened on the necks of the Newfoundland people solely by the decision of the local Commissioners without any reference to the British government. What an example of spendthrift dictatorship, what an abuse of a people's interests, what a breach of the sacred obligations of trusteeship.

Is it not high time that we did something about all this, that we took some steps to prevent this country being kicked around in this manner, of having the British government use us and all that is ours for her advantage and to our detriment? Is it not time that this Convention did something about saving the country itself? I say, sir, that there was never a time in our national life when the motto "Delays are dangerous" was more applicable.

The great need of this country today is unity — unity of thought and purpose in doing the job which lies before us. I am too well aware of the fact that there are many circumstances which mitigate against this sense of unity, and which at the same time render more easy the task of those who would disunite us. There is our far-flung coastline, our isolated settlements, our lack of communications — all these things militate