

resources, tremendously interested in the iron ore deposits recently discovered in the Newfoundland-Labrador. As that development takes place, no government however benevolent could look after the material interests to be derived from the situation as well as a government of Newfoundlanders fighting for Newfoundland's interests. It is admitted on all sides today that the development of this mineral wealth can be probably one of the most important, if not the most important development that has ever taken place in the history of this country. To bring this home to us, let us suppose that the people of Newfoundland would be assured in the future of another industry which would be as valuable to Newfoundland as the development of the paper industry at Corner Brook. That is the position with regard to the almost certain development of the mineral deposits of the Labrador, if we can believe the facts which have been placed before us. The important thing to me is this: that we, the people of Newfoundland, who should reap the advantages from this wealthy resource, should be in a position to get all the material advantages for our own people.

The fourth reason which helped me to make up my mind in favour of self-government is the fact that the development of our fisheries, both on the side of marketing possibilities and the extension of the industry itself is, for a number of reasons, stronger today than it has ever been. In spite of the present difficulties, particularly exchange difficulties which I feel certain will be resolved, the over-riding consideration is that for no little time to come there will be a shortage of food in the world which Newfoundland fish will help to fill. I believe that our recent progressiveness in the fisheries has been due to a realisation on the part of Newfoundland exporters of the need for modernisation and diversification, and for a more co-operative approach to the marketing problem which found its instrumentation in the Fisheries Board and further, that a government of Newfoundlanders would not jeopardise these accomplishments, but would be anxious to advance them still further.

Further, since 1934 (which we were bound to take into consideration under our terms of reference) due to the goodwill and assistance of the British government, we were able to reduce our permanent burden of debt interest by 100%. I

would point out that this amount of about \$2.5 million yearly would, in our time of depression, have very possibly saved us the loss of what ought to be a very prized possession — political independence.

Further, I am convinced that if we could once get that spirit of national pride which pervades the more progressive nations, big or small, we would be in a position to take on to ourselves under present conditions the whole of the balance of our national debt. That national pride can best be fostered at this time by the feeling that once again we have had the guts to take our political and economic future into our own hands as an expression of faith in our country and in ourselves. There are a number of other things which have been added to the development of the economy of the country. They have been mentioned so often that I propose to skip over them.

Finally, there is still another reason why I feel that self-government is the best for Newfoundland. It is a reason which is less easily tied down, because it has nothing to do with tangible facts or figures. It has to do with personality, with human hopes, with that quality of man that pushes him onward through the generations toward a better way of living. I happen to believe that a man can best develop his personality, can best arrive at what happiness is possible in this life, through accepting all the dangers and possible catastrophes of independence. The man who relies on himself, we all know, takes a risk on everything that he has — his health, his ability, his wealth, his circumstances. But the man who relies on others, who has no thought or power of earning which is really his own, no achievements that he can regard with pride as his own, no victories over his own personal struggles — such a man can know no victory because he knows no defeat. So, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is with a nation or a country; countries, like men, can only achieve real maturity by accepting the challenge of free will to make or break themselves.

Life is a struggle, and only those who do not face this fact must escape into dependence upon stronger personalities. One gentleman said, "Responsible government is right in principle, but wrong in practice." He was expressing an escape into theory. Anything that exists in real life cannot be right in principle and wrong in practice. The most one can say of it is that it is