

Come back with me now to the year 1855. Well, you know your history. Two hundred thousand people, and no industry except fish and sealing. No railway, few schools, but withal a few gallant gentlemen wrestling, by force almost, from Great Britain the right of self-government. Mr. Chairman, I ask you, could these men see the frenzied efforts of some men in this House for the past few months, would they not cry out in scorn, "Oh ye of little faith"?"

Yes, there can be only one form of government for this country, and that is self-government. For 15 years we have been politically dead. Men and women of 35 and under have never voted and it is for these I worry. They not only have not had political experience, but their minds have been poisoned by vicious stories. Was it done deliberately, I wonder? Their votes now will decide the issue. Will they snap out of their political apathy and jump into the breach and hold fast to their heritage, or will they allow themselves to be hoodwinked and lose it?

Never before in the history of this country was there such a chance for us to sell our products to a nation who can afford to buy them — I mean the United States of America. All history is tied up with economic strings. The destinies of peoples depend on what they have for sale and to whom they sell it, and I think an American dollar is still on a par with a Canadian dollar. Are we to get that American dollar, or must it go elsewhere? There is only one way we can get that American dollar, and that is by demanding by popular vote the return to our former status, by adopting the Statute of Westminster, and thereafter by doing business with people who will treat us fairly.

Sir, I think I have about used up the time I had. Is it completely gone?

Mr. Chairman You have four minutes, to be exact.

Mr. Hollett I just want to say this, sir, that if there is any misunderstanding between you and

me, I apologise. I was doing what I deemed to be in the best interests of this assembly and the people of this country, and I still make this assertion, that I agree wholeheartedly with the statement made by Mr. Bradley, that if we pass this resolution we can recommend nothing else. That's my opinion, and I explained why. Mind now, I am in favour of passing this. I do not agree with Commission government — I think we should have our former status, and I appeal to you men to go out and tell the people that their only hope in the future is to get back their former status, and thereafter to see to it that the men that they elect and send to this assembly shall spend their time in the interest of the people of this country, and not in doing something which does not apply to the people. Sir, I am going to quote just two or three words from Robert Burns. It's Burns Night tomorrow. Burns was a common man like the rest of us here in this assembly, but he was a great man, and loved his country as I hope every one of you gentlemen loves yours. And with apologies to the spirit of Burns, and with the changing of but one word in his brief stanza, I say:*

Mr. Reddy Mr. Chairman, all thinking people in this country will agree that the time has come when we should arouse ourselves to a sense of our real responsibilities, and unite in a determined effort to steer our ship of state, storm-beaten though she may be, on the right course to safe harbour; to make sure that Newfoundland comes into her own, and that she should take her rightful place in these free-thinking, liberty-loving sections of the world to which her loyalty, fine principles of justice, and fair play entitled her. I feel that the newly elected government of Newfoundland should be different from the old responsible government. Its members should be limited to the lowest minimum. I would like to see the introduction of new social legislation, which would improve the standard of living for

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*Oh Newfoundland, my dear, my native soil,
 For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent,
 Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
 Be blessed with health and peace and sweet content;
 And Oh! may Heaven their simple lives prevent
 From luxury, contagion weak and vile,
 Then however crowns and coronets be rent
 A virtuous populace may rise the while
 To stand, a wall of fire around this much loved Isle.*