

federal union of Newfoundland with Canada. In that way facts would be elicited, information obtained, as might be required in regard to any other factual matter or circumstances.

Professor Wheare I concur entirely with what the Chairman has said.

Mr. Newell Mr. Chairman, the question of whether or not this country should become part of the federal union of Canada is not a new one; though, until yesterday, it has not during the present century been a very live issue. It is nevertheless a matter on which there is a wide diversion of opinion; it is also, perhaps, inevitable that the matter should come before this Convention. This country is in a state of change. Sometime next year our people are going to be called upon to vote for the form of government they desire. Many of us have not given much thought to possible forms of government over the past decade. Others have, and perhaps have already secured sufficient information to make up their minds. Whatever conclusions these people have reached, and it is no secret that we have delegates here who have definitely made up their minds, we must see that they are given every opportunity to put their case before the Convention and the country, and that they are given a sympathetic hearing at the proper time.

Others among us, however, because we have not had the same opportunity to study the political and economic situation of the country, are not in the happy position of being able to subscribe without further study to this or that form of government. It is imperative, and I speak of this latter group, to assert our right to the consideration of our views however incomplete they may be; and further to make sure that we are guided in our deliberations by sound judgement rather than emotion, facts rather than sentiment.

The country has the right to expect certain things of us. It has a decided right to expect that we will get whatever facts — not propaganda — but whatever facts are necessary to enable the people of this country to choose wisely when confronted with a final choice. The country has the right to expect us to show some material evidence of that open mind which many of us claimed we had when we came here. It is not for me to question any man's motives, much less sit in judgement on him. It certainly is our privilege and our duty to insist that the widest inquiries

possible be entered into before we make a final recommendation.

I feel that the majority of us here, who subscribe to the open-mind school, will require the case for confederation to be examined just as exhaustively as any other case. At the same time, the question is greater than the personalities involved. We must try to see it in that light. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that we are capable of objective analysis, and just as objective decisions.

I have stated hitherto that I cannot conceive of any political democracy succeeding unless it is based on economic democracy. I hope to have an opportunity of enlarging on that thesis. I am therefore prejudiced, if you will, to the extent that before any form of government is adopted by this country, I want to see its economic implications worked out first. And that applies to confederation, responsible government or any other government that you care to name. There are businessmen here, representatives of labour and others who will stand with me on that.

Whether or not we discuss the possibilities of federal union with Canada now or later interests me but little. The issue cannot be evaded, if only because there are enough people in this country who want it discussed. There are a great many people in my own constituency who want it discussed — and they are as hardworking and as loyal Newfoundlanders as any in this country. They want all the facts — and do not want anyone to restrict their freedom of choice. That is the way I feel about the matter. I can conceive of no reasonable argument against having the matter aired.

Meanwhile, my own view on the subject of federal union has in no way been influenced by the proposer of this motion, nor by its opponents. Some may look on Canada through highly magnifying spectacles; others through dark glasses. It is for us to allow ourselves to be cajoled by none — and equally important — to be intimidated by none. But surely it is pertinent to observe that two countries hitherto independent of each other, can only, in the ordinary course of events, be expected to form a partnership for the same reason that two natural persons form a partnership — each expects to be benefitted materially thereby.

May I state most strongly that I am against any approach to Canada or any other country, that places us in the position of the Cinderella appeal-