

terms of reference we are not playing the game by our constituents or by the country generally.

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, much has been said on what we are gathered here for. I could not help recalling some of the speeches of yesterday. I believe we of the Convention realise the responsibility of what is an historic occasion, and it is something, in my estimation, that should not have happened. I am learning for the first time the whole truth about what has happened in the past, and the truth still leaves me in that state of mind that there should never have been an occasion for a National Convention. I agree with my honourable colleague, Major Cashin, that we should never have surrendered the constitution. In that I differ from my learned colleague Mr. Brown. At that time I was out of the country. In 1929, watching the course of events, I was talking to some of the members of the House and the matter of borrowing came up. They said we had to borrow to get along. I asked, "What are you going to do when you can't borrow, have you any plan? You had better get one for your borrowing days are about over." It seems like everybody drifted along with no plan, "laissez faire" was the order of the day. That was the time to have tried to get the house in order, and when the world got in the doldrums in the thirties, the first thing we should have done was to have notified our debtors that until our markets picked up we would acknowledge our debt, and pay a token payment of say one third of one percent ... and also tried at the time to get our interest scaled down. After all, we had spent a lot of the money fighting for democracy, it was just as well to face it first as last. No, that much was too much for Newfoundland, where vested property has sacred rights above the call of human rights. Then the Tory element came to the fore and we had to surrender our franchise, our birthright. Esau sold his for a mess of pottage, he made a better bargain than us. I don't know who got anything out of it, I am sure the British government didn't, for since 1934 all liberal-minded people throughout the world have reminded her of her treatment of Newfoundland. When serving on a great ship in 1940 and talking in the mess about the way the democrats let the Spanish republic down, one steward who was secretary of the Barcelona Labour Party and on the run from Franco said, "What did you expect of the Tory element in

Britain, did they not take away Terra Nova's constitution because she could not pay to the Yankee and British capitalists the interest on her debt, and that debt was only \$2 a head for the people of Britain?" So you see, prestige is hard to get and easy to lose. Then we got a Commission of Government, a cure for all our ills. I was home from 1936 to 1939 and if ever there was a hopeless, befuddled body of men in the world's history it was that same Commission. I'm sure had the home government given us the power to elect our commissioners with the power the commissioners had, plus financial experts from the old country, the story would have been different today. I doubt if we would have been clamouring for a change of government.

Let us review our country's past. With everything against us for the past 336 years since the first permanent settlers landed here, taking the type of country it's our lot to own, and the way our economic system has worked, we have made marvellous progress, and its because our people seem to be made out of different clay. The north breeds men, and our country bred good men — we must never let them down, and I have great faith in the future. I don't think it's going to be easy. We don't want men of the type who surrendered our God-given right to vote. Personally, I don't think we'll get them, I think we have learned our lesson. Let us review our past financially. The figures, if one is to believe the British year book from 1900 to 1930, show that with a population of less than 255,000, we exported nearly \$700 million worth of goods and we imported just \$14 million less than we exported. Out of these imports we built a Grand Falls, a Corner Brook, Deer Lake, the dry dock, the Newfoundland Hotel, hundreds of miles of railroads. Added to that we borrowed \$70 million, added to the wages of a number of men who like myself worked outside the country and sent their money in, which probably in the 30 years reached nearly \$100 million. Let us get down to the crux of the matter, and find out why, with this wealth in sight, we are in the place we are. In 1929 our exports totalled \$40 million, or \$140 per head for every man, woman and child in Newfoundland. That was our foreign trade. That year the foreign trade of the United States, the greatest in her history, was \$42 per capita. Economists have told me we are the largest exporters per capita in the