

this spring. The motion does not ask us to be in favour of responsible government or Commission government. It does not ask us voters, as citizens, to vote for either of these two forms of government. If it did, I would not vote for this motion. It only asks us to recommend that these two forms of government shall be laid before the people of the country to vote for or against, in the referendum. I believe that the Newfoundland people have every right in the world to pass their verdict on these two forms of government in the referendum; so I am going to vote to give the people that right.

I want it to be clearly understood that in the referendum itself I shall not vote for either responsible or Commission government. I shall vote against both of them, as a citizen of Newfoundland. I shall vote against them in the referendum as a member of this Convention. I do not think our people will vote for either one of them; but I think they must have the right to do it if they wish.

Sir, I am against responsible government coming back to Newfoundland. In principle, I think responsible government is right, but in practice, I think it is wrong. I think if we went back to responsible government we would bring misery and suffering on our people. I think it would be a terrible gamble to take. When I say that responsible government is all right in principle, I mean that all people should have the right of self-

government, all people should have power over the government — the power to elect it, and the power to put them out if they don't do right. But when I say that responsible government is all wrong in practice, what I mean is that I see no chance whatever that responsible government would be any better for us than it was those last 20 years that we had it.

Under responsible government our country went broke.... Our government's credit was gone — we were bankrupt and insolvent. Our people were on the dole in the tens of thousands. Our children went hungry and naked. Our standard of health fell very low, and TB increased by leaps and bounds. I see no chance at all that we could ever keep clear of those same terrible conditions if we went back to responsible government, which means that Newfoundland has cut herself clear of close organic connection with any other country. Under responsible government we would be on our own, ... without help from anyone. We tried that before, and where did we end? I, for one, am not willing to go through all that misery again, and I don't think our people are willing to try that again, for a "burnt child dreads the fire". Where would people be once our little cash surplus was all gone? Where would we turn then for help? It is no use anyone telling me we would never need help, because I don't believe it. When the price of fish falls, as fall it will; when the icy blast of depression strikes again, as it will;

* Newfoundland stands at the crossroads, she is humble,
not naked or bare,
She begs leave to enter the Allied world and can proudly
pay her share.
Who will deny her admission, who'll put the bar on the door?
Will Great Britain, the one she bled for, for whom she
fought two wars before?
Will America who is always a neighbour, will Canada who
claims kith and kin?
God grant not the one or the other will stop
Newfoundland coming in.
Then why all the fuss and the turmoil; why begrudge what
is rightfully ours?
We gave of our best and our freedom, we helped
earn what now is their powers.
Heaven guard every step of our journey, may our watchword
be *freedom* not *fear*,
And may every true Newfoundlander, mark his "X" for
self-government here.