

have no desire to withhold the terms from anyone wishing to have them; but I contend that there is no need to send a delegation when the Governor in Commission is prepared to communicate with the Government of Canada and request such information as the Convention is permitted to ask, relative to the terms of federal union.

Some may say that I am inconsistent in that I voted for sending a delegation to the United Kingdom. But I would point out, first, our political affiliations with England demand that this Convention get in closer touch with the real government which has controlled our destinies for the past 13 years; secondly, the Governor in Commission made no stipulation as to the subject matter of our enquiries from the Government of the United Kingdom as they did in the case of Canada. The more I ponder this question the more I am convinced that the sending of a delegation is neither necessary, desirable nor constitutional.

[*The Convention adjourned until 8 pm*]

Mr. Harrington Mr. Chairman, on the night of Wednesday, October 20, 1943, at a Jubilee dinner in the Newfoundland Hotel, I proposed a toast to Newfoundland. In my toast, besides many other things, I said: "In spite of even the latest sample of mismanagement, every bit as deliberate as the former anti-settlement laws in its eventual purpose to hinder rather than to help, Newfoundland today, through a combination of world events is standing on the threshold of our inevitable destiny, the geographical centre of the empire of the air." The "latest sample of mismanagement" referred to, was as everyone knew, the regime known as Commission of Government. It was with a sense of vindication that I heard members of this Convention during the debate last December on the Report of the Committee on Transportation and Communications, say the same thing in different words. Principally it was said in connection with the sections of the report dealing with Gander and tourism, and I made particular note of Mr. Higgins' expressing himself in words to this effect: "It seems as if the Commission of

Government do not want this country to prosper."

Two months after the speech referred to, I succeeded Mr. Smallwood as "The Barrelman"¹ and as editor of *The Newfoundlander*.² I inherited his historical mantle and as I believed, his political philosophy, which was identical with my own. At least it was then. For the past three years I have made no secret of my political philosophy. On the radio and in *The Newfoundlander* I stressed the doctrine of self-help; that Newfoundlanders would only progress by their own efforts; that a dictatorship, however benevolent, was a monument of shame to people who had governed themselves, wisely or unwisely, well or unwell, under representative institutions since 1832 and under responsible government since 1855. I believed that in 1943. I believed it long before that. I believe it now.

When I assumed editorship of *The Fishermen-Worker's Tribune*³ in 1944, and first became associated with Mr. K.M. Brown, the proprietor, and later delegate for Bonavista East until his regrettable seizure in this very House, I expressed the same view in my editorials. And lest it be alleged that these views were not mine but someone else's, I but refer you to a letter which I wrote to *The Daily News* in 1945, in which I stated flatly that in my opinion there was only one course open to us, namely, that we should seek to return immediately to full responsible government. "Otherwise", I said, "we are a lost people." Had I been divinely inspired I don't think I could have been more prophetic.

Early in the spring of 1946 I was asked to take part in a debate on the resolution "That the National Convention is the best method of selecting Newfoundland's future form of government." By choice I took the negative side. The debate, which took place in a well-known literary association⁴ in the West End of St. John's, was won by the negative which side was favoured by both the silent and standing votes. I believed in my arguments. I believed that the National Convention would ultimately serve to "make confusion worse confounded" in this country, and who will

¹"The Barrelman" was a radio programme begun in 1937, that provided historical material and human interest stories related to Newfoundland.

²*The Barrelman*, a newspaper published by F.M. O'Leary, was renamed *The Newfoundlander* in 1934.

³*The Fishermen-Worker's Tribune*, a publication of the Fishermen's Protective Union, first appeared in 1938.

⁴Holy Cross Literary Association.