

foundland have had to contend with economic factors much less favourable than some countries. Of course we ate dole in Newfoundland during the depression — the world ate dole. In Europe and in the Americas, a hundred million human beings ate dole, and there are many eating it today. Some of the finest cities in the world have their cracked pavements, sagging roofs and tumbledown shacks. These things are there for anyone to see, this position is not peculiar to Newfoundland. A political change cannot bring forth economic reform and freedom from want. The resources of this country are as God made them, and any change in the form of government will not bring a change in climate. It will not bring more fish to our shores, nor make the day longer, nor will it bring us any nearer to the great centres of supply. No, Mr. Chairman, a particular form of government will not give us economic security. It has been stressed here that there can be no political freedom without economic security. Where can this be found, this political freedom coupled with economic security? It has never existed. Are we to receive this gift overnight? Trash and nonsense! If we want political freedom with some measure of economic security, we shall have to dig and sweat for it. It is the only way. Life was more simple at one time, Mr. Chairman, it was not the tremendously complex thing we know today, and we should remember that any individual solution to a local problem is a definite contribution to the solution of national problems, which are cumulative. If we want democracy in Newfoundland tomorrow, we must live it today.

Fundamentally the Newfoundland scene has not changed, but we are slowly moving away from old methods of doing things, perhaps even without our knowing it; we are moving through a transitional period in this present century; the whole financial, government and economic structure of our island has been vastly changed; we have to adapt ourselves to new world conditions. And before we take one step forward into the future, we Newfoundland people must see to it that we have restored to us our hard-won rights as a separate unit in the Empire. In closing, sir, I say that we must find for ourselves a framework of philosophy of life that will make it possible for us to approach and solve our problems in an intelligent and therefore democratic manner.

Mr. Harrington Mr. Chairman, I have waited a long time and in patience for this day. I can still remember Friday, February 16, 1934. I had just passed my 17th birthday, and like most young Newfoundlanders of the day who had finished school the preceding June, I was more taken up with the problem of what to do next than with affairs of state. Nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, I had sufficient sense of destiny to realise on that bleak February day 14 years ago, that something momentous was happening which, though I was not aware of it at the moment, was to have great meaning in time in my own personal life. I sensed, sir, then, that it was a great historical moment, and in a way, perhaps, I was a living symbol of the belief then held by a great section of our people, that the system of government that day being inaugurated in Newfoundland was destined to open up a new era for this country. This sense of destiny and that faith — more conscious than expressed — caused me to wander that afternoon to the vicinity of the Newfoundland Hotel to gaze at the notables as they arrived in their cars, and vanished into the impressive portals of that structure on their way to the Ballroom, where the deed was to be done.

The papers said the weather was ideal, but I know better. It was cold and bleak, a grey February day as I recall it, and it has seemed to me, in every day that has passed thereafter that I think upon that scene, that a greyness comes into my soul as well. For you see, sir, I was young then, green; I knew little of governments and less of politics. The only recollection I can summon to my mind of the days of parliamentary government in this island is a recollection of the general election of 1932, when the Alderdice government was elected, whose manifesto said in effect that it would seek the appointment of a royal commission to study the situation of the country and recommend as to the alteration of the existing constitution, but that no such recommendations should be carried into effect without an appeal to the people. Well, in June, 1932, I was more interested in the Council of Higher Education's examination papers for grade ten, than I was in the personnel and manifestoes of the contending parties in that election. I can still vaguely recall the indifference with which I and my companions passed shops and offices in whose windows long lists gave the hour-to-hour results of the polling.