

taken suddenly ill while addressing this Convention, and who has not recovered sufficiently to return to his service here. No member of this assembly can truly estimate what this Convention has suffered in this way, for we all know Mr. Brown had much experience in the public life of his country, was and is a father of the fishermen, a man of great leadership and ability. May I send him our greetings and best wishes for an early recovery, so that he may be able to participate in the testing days for this country ahead. To all delegates (I almost want to say friend and foe alike), may I wish good health, good luck in your service for the future generations of Newfoundland. To our Chairman also who, I believe, holds the respect and goodwill of all, may I wish better health as soon as freed from honourable service here. You have, sir, in my opinion, served faithfully and well under difficult testing conditions during heated debate.

I go on record as opposed to the confederation scheme to barter Newfoundland to Canada at this time, believing our future safely lies in the election of our own government as a first step on a plan suggested by Mr. Hickman, and for a better deal for Newfoundland.

**Mr. Hillier** When last I rose, I rose to support a previous motion which had been brought to this house, with the understanding that these two political set-ups which were then introduced would be placed before the people of Newfoundland; because I was fully convinced that the people wished that to be so. They do wish it in the district which I happen to represent. They wish to have these political set-ups which I rose to support under those conditions at that time, placed before them. I again rise to support a motion. This time it is the motion which is at present before the Chair....

During my time in this Convention I have never committed myself to any political view. I felt that I was not called upon to do so. I had made up my mind that I wanted to see the whole picture. I wanted to weigh matters thoroughly. I realise to the full that any political view which I might have might not be shared by all those I represent, and they could very properly say to me that they did not send me here to champion any particular form of government. We are going to decide that when that day comes. We came here to inquire into the general position of New-

foundland, to find out all the facts possible, and to place these facts before the people in plain, simple language, as a means whereby they could be assisted when the day comes for making a grave decision. We came here to consider forms of government, and we were supposed to inquire as to the possibilities for Newfoundland under these respective political set-ups, and pass it on to the people. The people were to make the final decision, and any help we could give them, it was our bounden duty to give it....

It is quite possible in this world of ours to think independently. We live and move and have our being, as it were, in a certain political atmosphere, and because we live in that political atmosphere it is quite possible that we are going to be influenced thereby, and not at all times think and act completely independently. The influential powers around us will often take us out of the track into which we at first started. It is my personal feeling that this is one time in our history when we should think independently; for the question before us today is one which will concern us individually, and we should think independently after weighing the whole situation from every angle, and, having decided that we are on the right track, then it is an honourable thing for us to carry on.

As we look out upon world conditions, and as we consider Newfoundland's general position, we consider the lack of industries in this country, and the irregular earnings of a large number of our people, that no one year compares with the other, that there is no section of our country in which in some year there is not a failure from a fishery point of view. I understand that three-quarters of our people are fishermen. Having therefore in mind this one burning question and looking back on this Convention and what we have learned, and weighing matters in general in Newfoundland — there is this burning question: for what shall I vote in the national referendum? And it is a reasonable question. It is a question which I ask myself, and I know of lots that are asking the same question.... I am fully aware ... that whatever form of government Newfoundland may have in the future, our path will not be strewn with roses. There is the possible aftermath of war. What shape it will take I know not, but history usually repeats itself. We had a great depression after the last war, and it is pos-