

manner, I am confident we can safely leave the final analysis in the hands of our fellow Newfoundlanders. They will choose wisely and well. **Mr. Jones** Mr. Chairman, it is with a certain amount of intimidation I rise to make a few remarks on the report now in question. This National Convention has become a reality after much tribulation. I hope its faculties will continue to keep healthy and strong, because it will need the shoulder of an Hercules to carry the burden of statistics about to be placed upon its shoulders. The members of this Convention have been appointed by our respective districts to try and find out the best form of government suitable for Newfoundland. The task is going to be extremely difficult, and will call for the best contribution each and every one of us can put into it. We shall have to give sane and unbiased considerations to the many problems which will from time to time confront us, and there is much hard work in store for us before we can attempt to try and come to a decision.

Mr. Chairman, since we relinquished our status as a self-governing people, Newfoundland has been in the limelight, and still is. We have had many reverses in our economic life since then, yet we have survived somehow. When war was declared Newfoundland was at its lowest ebb, economically and financially, yet in spite of the fact that many of our young men were on the dole, being only half-fed and half-clothed (on six cents a day) they rallied round the colours, and very soon some 7,000 of our young men were enlisted in the different forces of the empire, not forgetting thousands of our young women who offered their services. Mr. Chairman, let us hope Newfoundland will never again experience the difficult times previous to the outbreak of hostilities. That is where this Convention comes in, to find that form of government which will remove the spectre of want from our people. Should this Convention recommend such a form of government, then it will be the means of placing Newfoundland on the map, and our children's children will look back in the years to come on the work of this Convention and say it was a masterpiece.

Mr. Chairman, as we look at the estimates for 1946-47 we find a deficit balance of approximately \$4 million. How can we be self-supporting under these conditions? If we wish to find a

solution to our problems, we must forget this form or that form of government, until we have studied carefully all the information at our disposal and then come to our decision, which is the most suitable form of government for this sadly burdened country of ours.

**Mr. Watton** Mr. Chairman, during the past few days we have listened to some lengthy and eloquent speeches by several members of this Convention and I wish to tender congratulations. What I have to say will not be lengthy nor will it be eloquent. I am not too particularly blessed with the gift of oratory, nor do I think it is necessary at this stage of our proceedings.

The Chadwick and Jones report will be of the utmost value to us in our deliberations, and I do not think there will be any question of its adoption. During this debate a lot has been said for and against various forms of government. Mr. Chairman, the time is not ripe, nor do I think it appropriate, for us to discuss the merits or demerits of any particular form of government. As regards what form of government is best for this country at the present, I have no idea, but as to what *kind* of a government I want for this country, I have a very *fixed* idea. What I, and the majority of the people of this country want is a government that will give us the greatest measure of economic and financial stability. A government that will see to it that the rising generations of this country are given a sound education, a chance to develop a healthy mind, and what is perhaps most important of all, a healthy body.

During the past, Mr. Chairman, our people have been denied a great many, if not all of these privileges or shall I say *rights*. I could carry on in this strain to come length, but if I do I shall probably find myself in the rather awkward position of self-contradiction. Because at the beginning I stated that what I had to say would not be lengthy.... So let us cut out the pretty speeches and get down to business.

**Mr. Penney** Feeling that our friends at Carbonear may be thinking I am asleep on the job or something worse because we are not figuring in the news so far, may I take this opportunity of speaking briefly, as well as to let you know at the start that I am not a past master in the field of oratory. Yet, like all other members of this Convention, we have our own opinions and feelings concerning the work which we are called upon to