

cottage hospitals and district nurses, new high-roads linking smaller and larger settlements together, bringing them in touch with new markets, inducing tourists to come into the country, bringing in new money. The introduction of the co-operative societies is enabling the working man to get every cent possible for the products of his toil. The setting up of our very capable Fisheries Board, with newer methods, is raising the standard of our fish products, thereby assuring to our fishermen higher prices. There are other things I could mention, but these are sufficient to warrant people voting for Commission of Government. But I want to warn our Newfoundland people that vast government expenditures have been built up to give us all these services, and while revenues continue to keep up these expenditures can be maintained, but if they fall, which we have every sound reason to believe they will, since a level of government expenditure once reached has a tendency to stay put, our surplus will soon melt away, and then where are we? Down and out again.

We had England to come to our aid in the 1930s, and pour millions into the country. England will not be in any position to help us for some years to come, she needs millions and billions poured into her. What help we can expect from her will be negligible, if any. She will do what she can, but it's my opinion she expects us to go our own way and bid Commission of Government farewell. Personally, I do not feel that the future of Newfoundland has anything to gain by the retention of Commission of Government, but I am in duty bound to vote that it be placed on the ballot paper.

Mr. Fudge Mr. Chairman, since the hour is late, before I make my few simple remarks I would suggest that the Convention recess until 8 o'clock.

Mr. Chairman Yes, and I would like all the members who intend speaking to the motion to please do so, because eventually, before the motion is put, I will have to call on Mr. Higgins, the mover of the motion, to reply, and I don't want any member to feel that he is shut out.

Mr. Higgins Could we have an expression from members now who wish to speak?

Mr. Chairman Are there any members who wish to address themselves to this motion, will you please give me some indication?

Mr. Higgins There are five speakers.

Mr. Chairman There are eight, and you, of course, will be nine.

Mr. Hickman There's another 20 minutes yet, sir.

Mr. Fudge Well, if you stay here till half past six, don't blame me.

Mr. Chairman There will be no Chair, Mr. Fudge.

Mr. Fudge Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the people whom I represent and for myself as well, I wish to make a few brief comments on the motion before the Chair. This motion is to the effect that in the forthcoming plebiscite, the people of Newfoundland be asked whether they want as their future form of government either the responsible government which they lost in 1933, or a continuation of the present form of Commission government. Now although I may support this motion recommending that these two forms of government be placed on a ballot, that must not be taken to mean that I think these two forms are equally good, and that whichever form our people choose we will be just as well off with one as we would be with the other. Not at all. I mean anything but that. I have long ago come to my own conclusions as to what is the best form of government to recommend to the people of this country, and further, sir, I am prepared to give sound reasons for my decision.

In my opinion there should be no need for any election at all over this matter. It should be simply a matter of giving back to this country something that was taken from her in 1933.

I am not going to criticise the Commission of Government, for I sincerely believe that the Commission has done a certain amount of good in the country, but I am prepared, as I have been for the past ten years, to try and see both sides and give credit where credit is due. The Commission of Government, as I said before, has done a considerable amount of good but I want you to bear in mind that those who I hear so often condemning and accusing the old politicians of yesterday were the very people who made it possible, who provided the machinery whereby those people could raise \$40 million revenue.

I cannot overlook the fact that Commission of Government — I am more or less inclined to criticise the form, rather than the members of the Commission — grossly ignored my comrades of the Great War Veterans' Association some years