

electorate, and that a few more years of this sort of self-education will help Newfoundlanders to weigh more carefully than they have been able to do in the past, or even than they can do today, what is best for the future welfare of their beloved country.

As I do not wish to delay matters by moving an amendment to the resolution before the Chair, I support it with the definite expectation that the suggestions I have made will be taken into account when our report is being formulated. Let us look, and advise the electorate to look carefully before they take their leap. God grant them guidance.

Mr. Northcott It gives me much pleasure, sir, to speak to the motion so ably moved by my learned friend, Mr. Higgins and seconded by my good friend, Mr. Vardy.

The time has come, sir, at last when we as true Newfoundlanders can talk on forms of government now before the Chair and make recommendations. In reviewing the many reports of the Convention, I with many others am satisfied that this country is not only self-supporting, but is in a very good, sound, healthy condition, financially and economically; and under good, wise counsel and leadership, we should continue to be a strong, happy, contented and a prosperous people.

My mind goes back to 1932-33 when, as it were, our backs were up against the wall due to the scarcity of dollars to run the country. Cannot the same be said of many countries of the world at that time? And did not a great many nations default? If we had gotten a little help at that time from our so-called good neighbours, there would have been no need of the National Convention today and Newfoundland would still have retained responsible government, and I have not the least shadow of a doubt but that our country would have been very prosperous and happy today. However, since 1933 a lot of water has gone under the bridge. We have had many ups and downs, many broken hearts and homes due to the world war; but thanks be to God we are still a great people and a great country; and, sir, under Divine guidance, good government and real leadership we shall, as Mr. Fudge has said, sail our good ship safely to port and to safe anchorage.

Our great, friendly neighbour, America, is slowly but surely opening the way for our fish to enter into its markets, and when once we can ship

a great many of our fishery commodities into that great republic, our people will obtain a better price for their fish, and a much better standard of living will be assured. But on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, we must insist on giving them a number-one article so that we can hold the market for all time. I understand too that provision is being made to take care of some of our saltfish. Therefore, with our fisheries in fair and improving conditions, our paper industries going full blast, our mines working to full capacity, our railway working full time, our farms doing well and being extended rapidly; and last but not least, with the very great iron ore deposit with its many, many millions of dollars worth awaiting to be developed on Labrador, how in the name of common sense and decency can one do otherwise than support wholeheartedly the restoration of self-government?

We are the crossroads of the world today, and I pray that we, as real men, will see to it that we remain as such; and may we use our bargaining power wisely and well and for the betterment of the country as a whole, and not for a mere few.

God gave us this great land to use to the best of our ability, and not to abuse; and today our country is only in the making. It is true we have weathered many a storm, but as free men, and as never before, may we march ever onward to make Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders one great happy family; and I am sure that if we do just that, we cannot go far wrong, and there will be no place for greed or graft in our midst.

And now, sir, in conclusion, about Commission government. It came in Newfoundland when our government, shall I say, faded out. The Commission of Government was given grants-in-aid by the mother country to tide us over the terrible times we were then passing through. They have made much progress. It is true they have made many mistakes — what government doesn't? But we should be ever grateful for their strong arm in time of weakness.

The time is ripe, Mr. Chairman, for us to take up the torch ourselves and wave it high, and to see that it is kept waving for all time. Gentlemen, I shall support the motion now before the Chair.

[Short recess]

Mr. Butt I just noted that Mr. Job is a generation older than Mr. Northcott; Mr. Northcott is a generation older than I am; and I thought this