

its bond, because the agreement under which this country agreed to relinquish responsible government was indeed a bond subscribed to by the United Kingdom government. Then you say, "Has this Convention been a complete waste of time and money?" I for one, and I know that most of you here will agree with me, think that this is not so. I submit that if it has done nothing else but awaken this country from its torpor, from its long sleep, from its lack of interest in all things political, then it has more than justified its existence, but I say that it's given to the people of this country not only that awakened interest, but a lot of valuable facts that in a large measure and to great extent a number of us never would have acquired. We may say that they have gotten them in capsule form, through the radio, but nevertheless they have gotten those facts. I would say that the members have put a lot of hard work into this Convention, at great inconvenience to themselves and in many cases at financial loss. If, at times, tempers have flared and matters have gotten somewhat out of hand, this was only to be expected, and it merely proves to me how seriously the members of this Convention were taking their duties.

All things being considered, I am satisfied that this Convention has justified its existence, and a lot of thanks are due to the radio operators and to the gentlemen of the press, because all the talking we have done would have been to naught if it had not been broadcast. It is true that at times we have been abusing the radio, but at all events, whether it has prolonged the Convention or not, whether some people think it has been a pretty high rate of entertainment they have received, I say that what they have heard on a number of occasions is not the true worth of this Convention, and that the members have done a good job, and that the end has justified the means.

However, to return to the motion, and my own opinion that we assume our true obligation of responsible government. We have heard, here and outside, the members of responsible governments of the past slandered. This has not been confined only to our own countrymen, but it appears in the columns of that famous Amulree Report as well. With all due respect to our own countrymen and the compilers of that report, I want you to consider the revenues of this country and the revenues that the men who ran our

responsible government had to contend with. Responsible government was attained in 1855, and it is very difficult in this day of big money to realise that in 1855 the first responsible government of Newfoundland had a total revenue of not more than \$500,000. And all you have got to do for the other figures is to go to the Finance Report, where you have the figures from 1897 up to the present day. In 1897 there was merely \$1.7 million in revenue, in 1902 there was \$2.3 million, in 1909 \$3 million, in 1914 \$3.9 million. The first time we got up to \$10 million was in 1919, and back it went again to \$8 million for a number of years. In fact the highest revenue that responsible government ever had to run the business of this country was in 1929-30, when they had the enormous sum of \$11.5 million.... So gentlemen, all I can say to you is that to run this country on the amount of money that our past governments had to run it with, was nothing short of miraculous. Where else in the world could it have happened? Where else could you get the men to do the job? I might be permitted to paraphrase Mr. Churchill: "Never did so few do so much with so little"; and I might add, "for so little."

What did they get out of it, I ask you? Nothing, except the satisfaction of serving their country. All the way down the line from Dr. Carson, the ancestor of Mr. Job, our government had good men and true, and what did they get for their services of this country? Abuse in their lifetime and slander of their names after their death. So I say to you in all sincerity that Newfoundland has a debt you can never repay to these great men of our past governments, who served this country only too well at the expense of their own happiness and well-being. Let us in some measure, as some recompense for their work and as a tribute to their memory, resolve to once again relight the fires that they so well lit, and so valiantly and nobly created. Let us keep our trust with them, and have faith in ourselves and in our country. I move the motion, sir.

Mr. Vardy Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by Mr. Higgins. It is, in my opinion, the most important business yet brought before the Convention, so important in fact, that it behoves the most flexible mind to examine soberly and carefully the stark realities of what might be the outcome