

£400,000 temporary loan we may consider cancelled. Remember that that £400,000 was the price of keeping your brothers in Flanders Fields in 1916, 1917 and 1918. It was never intended at the time it was raised that our people would be called upon to pay it. Is there any concession there? They say that the question of converting the debt to a lower rate of interest had been raised by the Commission of Government with the United Kingdom government, and that a conversion operation can be carried out in January 1948, provided the Commission gives them three months' notice — and we hope the Commission does not forget to give them notice. You will agree that all these things were ours of right. The sinking fund should naturally have been applied to the debt long ago, ever since 1937 and 1938. The £400,000 — it was never intended we should pay it, otherwise we should not have gotten off so easily. This supposedly generous action of converting from 3% to 2.5%, that is in line with the United Kingdom cheap money policy, and also the Canadian cheap money policy.

Why then, I repeat, why was it necessary to send a delegation to London? The answer, in my opinion, is simply this: the Dominions Office wanted the Convention to send a delegation to Canada! Why? Because Canada wanted the Dominions Office to send a delegation there! They know very well that only by receiving the English delegation was it possible to achieve their principal aim. You will all remember the resolution of the member from Bonavista Centre — that the delegation to Canada should not be sent until after the return of the English delegation. That is the only reason why the answers of Lord Addison were not sent by airmail. Receive a delegation to England? Of course! What shall we do when we get them here? Oh, we shall brush them off somehow. We shall make a gesture about the debt. Oh yes, we must be careful to tell them that if they vote for responsible government we shall no longer guarantee their financial stability. That is exactly what they did. You have heard Lord Addison's statement given the press — "Vote for responsible government and your financial stability will no longer be guaranteed." Just what did they mean by financial stability? That is what they assured us in 1933 when they took away our constitution — "We will look after you", "We will look after your financial

stability." What did it amount to from 1933 to 1940?

Any of you who have lived on our coast where our fishermen go out from day to day in the shore fishery, where our bankers go out on the Grand Banks and risk their lives and toil from long before daylight to dark, if any of you lived on these portions of the coast between 1933 and 1940, you must ask yourselves, "What does Lord Addison mean by financial stability?" If any of you acted as relieving officers during that period, as I did, and saw our people go from a robust, hardy people, down to a very gaunt, starved population, is that financial stability? Is that the financial stability which is to be taken away from us if we vote for responsible government? I ask you to consider it well. Ask yourselves what the Dominions Office means by financial stability. Does it mean a starved beri-beri race? Does it mean a TB race? Gentlemen, if that's the financial stability which Lord Addison promises you, I ask you to reject it without any hesitation whatever. I won't go into the question as to whether, if they guarantee it, they can carry it out. I have no patience with those people who are putting up this austerity business about Great Britain. I ask you to remember that the British Empire has granted credits to the extent of £750,000 to European countries. £300 million worth of credits have been given out to Greece, Turkey, Holland, Belgium, Italy and God knows how many other countries, and most of those, it has been stated, need never be paid back. We, 300,000 Britishers here, who gave our young men in two wars and suffered starvation over a period of years, shall not have financial stability if we endeavour to exercise that right which our forefathers won. You will not get financial stability.

Let us take another look at Lord Addison's answers to our questions, and I do not forget that the Chairman of the Commission government and the Commissioner for Justice had a hand in forming these answers, for did not the Secretary of State state that these two gentlemen had been invited to London by him to assist him? It is my opinion that these answers were formulated before our visit began, and that these gentlemen, as Professor Wheare said, "simply concurred". Now as to interest-free loans and development loans and base deals, these things have been very