

Mr. Chairman Definitely.

Mr. Hollett Now I have here the Letters Patent of 1934, and I want to read a section. You see just what authority was given relative to this particular matter, or at least what was intended by His Majesty King George V. He issued his Letters Patent to this country in 1934, and in them he made certain statements and if the British government does not live up to these Letters Patent, then even my loyalty will get a rude shaking:

George V by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the sea, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, To all to whom these presents shall come. Whereby certain Letters Patent under the Great Seal bearing date at Westminster, the 28th day of March 1876, Her Majesty Queen Victoria did constitute the Office of Governor and Commander in Chief in and over this Island of Newfoundland, and Whereas by further Letters Patent, bearing date at Westminster of 17th day of July, 1905 His late Majesty King Edward VII did amend the aforesaid Letters Patent, and Whereas (this is one of the important sections, sir) Whereas we have received an address from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the said Island, praying that we may be graciously pleased to suspend the aforesaid Letters Patent, and to issue new Letters Patent, which would provide for the Administration of the said Island until, *until* such time as it may become self-supporting again, on the basis of the recommendations which are contained in the Report of the Royal Commission appointed by us on the 17th day of February 1933.

This is the Amulree Report, sir. Let us see what it says. If you have it in your possession, page 224 under the heading "Summary of Recommendations", sub-section G: "It would be understood that as soon as the Island's difficulties are overcome and the country is again self-supporting, Responsible Government, on the request of the people of Newfoundland, would be restored." And His Majesty King George V states definitely in the Letters Patent that he is graciously pleased to issue new Letters Patent, which would provide for the administration of the said island until such time as it may become self-supporting again on the basis of the recommendations.

Now, if that is not plain to everybody there must be something wrong with everybody, or with me. Therefore this was the position. I have quoted the *Evening Telegram*, I have quoted Mr. Emrys-Evans, I have quoted the Letters Patent, and I have quoted from Lord Amulree's report, and all these documents indicate just one thing, that our constitution was suspended in 1933, and a new form of government put into being until such time as this country again became self-supporting, and then, *and then*, whenever thereafter the people of this country wanted back the former status, all they had to do was to ask for it, and it would be given to them immediately.

Mr. Emrys-Evans said something else on that same date, 3 December, 1943, and it is important, very important. He said this:

As soon as practicable after the end of this present war machinery must be provided for enabling the Newfoundland people to examine the future of the island, and to express their considered views as to the form of government they desire, having regard to the financial and economic conditions prevailing at the time. If the general wish of the people should be for the return of full responsible government, we, for our part, shall be very ready, if the island is then self-supporting, to facilitate such a change. If, however, the general wish of the people should be either for the continuation of the present form of government, or for some change of the system which would fall short of full responsible government, we shall be prepared to examine such proposals sympathetically and consider within what limits the continued acceptance of responsibility by the United Kingdom could be recommended to Parliament.

Their position is, therefore, "You have now Commission of Government, should you wish to retain it, very well. If you want return of responsible government, yes, or even if you want Commission government amended somewhat so that some representation may be given the people of your country, we will consider that." So I say that Mr. Higgins could have arranged his motion in such a way that we could put on the ballot paper responsible government or some amended form of Commission of Government, or he could do it as he has done it. Other than that, I see no room for any other matter to go on the ballot paper.