

relating to the financial and economic position of this country. Would not the first question that would come to mind be this: why should the British government have to ask us to undertake such a task now? Do you think they would need to call on 45 men, living in all parts of this country with no particular training in such matters, to do this work for them? Don't you think they have all the answers themselves? They with their 4,000 civil servants, with their \$10,000 salaried departmental heads, with their highly-paid imported financial experts, with their agents scattered all over the island, with their great numbers of bureaux and offices — do you think in the face of this, they can ask us to believe that they must send out an invitation to us, and ask us to please come to St. John's, and add up their accounts for them and tell them whether the country is self-supporting or not? Why the whole thing is so wildly absurd, so obviously a thing of sending the fool further, that I am amazed that this Convention has not long ago refused to have any part of this political game of hide the button. I say that we are being trifled with, that the country is being trifled with, that this Convention is being treated as so many children, to whom this political toy is given to distract their attention to play this mock parliament business according to a book of instructions furnished by those two jokers, Messrs. Chadwick and Jones.

On behalf of the people whom I represent and myself, I wish to record my strong resentment at the derogatory and insulting manner in which we have been treated by the Dominions Office, and in the interests of all Newfoundland I say that, being aware of this position, it is high time that we did something about it. To use the words of Winston Churchill, "What kind of people do they think we are anyhow?" Do they think we have no intelligence? Do they think we have no national pride? Do they think we do not resent such un-called-for treatment?

Some months ago in a radio address, I expressed myself to the effect that if Newfoundlanders did not soon take over their country, there would be nothing left to take over. I have that same feeling today. It is an old story now, about the bartering away of our national assets. But the thing still goes on, and the tragedy of it is we are doing nothing to stop it. Sometime ago this Convention unanimously passed a resolution re-

questing the Commission that no further commitments or charges should be made upon our national resources, until such time as it was decided what form of government would administer our affairs in the future. But do you think there will be any attention paid to such a request? I tell you, Mr. Chairman, not the slightest. Indeed, I doubt if this Convention has been given the courtesy of a reply to their request. It was only a few days ago that a further act was passed giving further concessions on the Labrador to outside parties, and we have no doubt that as time goes on further contractual obligations will be made involving us to the tune of many millions of dollars of the people's money, further compromising our future in a deeper bondage. You will remember that at the beginning of this Convention we were furnished with a ten-year programme for the expenditure of some \$60 million. This programme is actually being carried out today by the Commission government itself, without any notice being taken of this Convention.

I am aware there are those amongst us who seem obsessed with the peculiar idea that the problem of Newfoundland can be dealt with as one would a problem in mathematics; that it is something which can be worked out by the rule of three. They seem to want somebody to come and show as a mathematical certainty that Newfoundland will never know another bad day. They want a gilt-edged guarantee that there will be no more depressions in the world, that there will be no more wars, no more bombs, no more ups or downs in either politics or commerce. They want to be assured of the exact number of fish we are going to catch ten years from now, the number of trees we are going to cut, the number of tons of ore we are going to extract from our mines. And if we can't perform this miracle of exactly prophesying all these things, they will say that we are not self-supporting — that we had better not take a chance, there may be a depression in 1950 or even 1960, and we had better go in with some other country that has no depressions, no wars, and no business cycles. Why the thing is so absurd, so hopelessly impractical, that I would not mention it at all but for the reason that there are people who actually think this way. I ask, what country, what individual, what businessman expects to be able to have a blueprint of his condition five or ten years from