

foundland, are holding her to that written and spoken word, and it must be our duty afterward to decide our future destiny as a free people." I do not need to point to Newfoundland's loyalty. This has been amply demonstrated on numerous occasions and will be again if Great Britain does now, in what I consider her very last chance, give the freedom, rights and honour to Newfoundland for which we have paid for many times in blood. I could not honestly call it a privilege or a favour, it is a just and honourable debt for which we, with her, side by side, gave the lives of the bravest and best of Newfoundland's manhood and womanhood. That debt can only be repaid by speedily undoing a wrong, by immediately granting what costs her nothing, not even her pride, self-government without delay to the people of Newfoundland. I have stated that in my opinion this will be Britain's last chance to do the right and proper thing. If she fails in this crucial hour, she will do what the vast majority of the English-speaking world in the west is expecting, drive Newfoundland into the arms of the United States of America. There is a parable that says, "Children obey your parents." Again, "Parents provoke not your children to anger lest they rise up against you." It is a common expression these days, that if Britain does not very soon wake up to her responsibility toward her oldest colony, Newfoundland must appeal to that great democratic republic to the west to save us from our friends. We are conscious of Britain's plight financially, but she is yet a great nation and what will make her greater still is to command the highest respect of all her people and especially her vast colonial empire. Many great sons have left unbearable home conditions only to become greater in the larger expanse of opportunity when the shackles of intolerable home life were released. Many depressed colonies of people have matured to great nations when the shackles of remote control were, at very often great sacrifice, lifted from their domain. Surely it must be admitted that if Newfoundland is forced to seek a more democratic institution, she will only do it in desperation, after the mother country has ignored all the principles of the rights of man. *[Mr. Vardy then read a poem which is printed on page 1243\*]*

Mr. Chairman, I am not critical at this time of any other form of government; there are many

forms which could find a place in our economy. But surely to every sane, sober, sensible, normal Newfoundlander there are certain basic fundamental principles which must, of necessity, be adhered to at this time. If Newfoundlanders are to be kicked around like footballs they will fight like demons the party who starts the kicking. Through perservance, endurance, sacrifice and a long history of struggle we obtained self-government. Our constitution was only temporarily suspended. It *must* and *will* be restored, if it costs thousands of the lives of our people. If it becomes necessary the supreme sacrifice will be made. Our people are true British stock, and history has proved many times that serious repercussions and most unsavoury situations might have been avoided if the heads of state had not been too stubborn to believe the inevitable could happen, and their refusal to recognise the rights of others. Someone must take the risk of stating these unpleasant facts in the hope that the Commonwealth Office will see the wisdom of honouring her obligations toward Newfoundland before it is too late. Hatred and revenge in the hearts of our people will be a far greater enemy than an equal share in the Christian democratic institutions which we have so nobly built up together. I would at this time appeal to their sense of justice, to establish if necessary, a precedent in British foreign policy and "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you."

I have spared no efforts to study every report brought into this Convention soberly, fairly and honestly. It is on the facts in these reports that I base my arguments for self-government for the country. To those of us who have conscientiously taken advantage of this opportunity to become really conversant with the potential wealth of Newfoundland, it has been an education at the expense of the treasury for which some of us at least are most grateful. We have delved deeply into matters for which we previously had no concern or knowledge, and although with the limited time of one hour I cannot attempt to give any review in detail, nevertheless I feel I should digress for a few moments to outline some of the reasons why I feel Newfoundland should return to self-government.

1. Newfoundland is a British colony, the oldest member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, outside Great Britain herself.