

ly, efficiently and speedily and in that comparatively short time found themselves in a position to make their report and their recommendations. When it was decided to hold another enquiry, with a similar object in view, His Majesty's Government in Great Britain proposed a method along democratic lines, a method whereby the elected representatives of the people, sitting in a National Convention should undertake work similar to that formerly performed by a chosen few. Now we all know that an elected assembly differs in many important respects from a small compact commission. The members are not chosen because of any particular qualifications; they come from different parts of the country and from different walks of life; they have different interests and have different conceptions of their duties and responsibilities. They work in public and instead of holding their discussion in the quiet detachment of a small conference chamber, they debate in full session and before a public audience, and, in the case of this particular Convention, over the wireless for the benefit of the public at large. That your proceedings have been prolonged, that your debates have from time to time resulted in some members wandering from the direct path of the terms of reference and that argument has frequently been passionate, all these things were, I think, to be expected. A great deal of the criticism which has been levelled at the Convention should therefore, in justice, be considered bearing these factors in mind. The Convention, like similar national constitutional assemblies held in different parts of the world since the war has followed a pattern which was in large measure to be anticipated.

Your debates have been followed with keen interest by our fellow countrymen and it is probably true to say that a great deal more information has been broadcast to a greater number of people by the means adopted, than would have resulted from the limited circulation and publicity given to a lengthy report of a royal commission. Your labours have been

long and arduous and I feel sure that you will be happy at the release which becomes effective today. In a short time a referendum will take place and our fellow countrymen will be enabled to disclose the extent to which their interest in their own welfare has been aroused by your efforts. The only manner in which they can show that they are really interested in an desirous of some form of democratic government, as we know it, is by exercising their right to vote in great numbers. Commission of Government, excellent as it is as a temporary stop gap in the case of emergency, does not provide the proper spiritual outlet for the development of the political soul of a free people. Their ultimate goal must be democratic government either alone or as a partner in a greater democratic union. Whether democratic government is to come now or later, it is only by the exercise of the right to vote that the people can demand it, as it is only by similar action that they can control it.

I know that you will all agree that a special word of thanks is due for the services rendered by your various Chairmen, the late Hon. Mr. Justice Fox, whose sudden death was so much lamented, Mr. Bradley and Mr. McEvoy, all of whom have given valuable gratuitous service in an office which was not at all times an enviable one.

Gentlemen, you have been separated from your families and your pursuits for a considerable time and in thanking you for your efforts in this historic Convention, I hope that now that you can return to your normal lives you will find happiness and good fortune. I know formally accept your recommendations and assure you that they will be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity.

His Excellency the Administrator was pleased to retire, accompanied by the Chairman.

Thereupon the Convention dissolved.