

handle this when speaking to Commission of Government.

I must apologise to you for bringing in the history of my own family, but I did it for this reason. Each year Confederation Life puts out a calendar they give to the public, a picture of how our great sister dominion was colonised. You see that great statesman Lord Halifax, with his ex-soldier settlers, backed by British cash, planning and building the city of Halifax. Another gives the settlers wading ashore at Pictou to the skirl of the pipers, a complete unit in itself. Go north to Cape Breton Island, and at Soldier's Cove and vicinity you'll find where Wellington's veterans, some who stood in the squares at Waterloo, carved out new homes. Go to south Nova Scotia, there you'll find the Hessians, veterans of the American war. All those were settled with British cash, British organisation, and last of all with British blessing and care while they were getting on their feet. Compare that with the way our forebears settled here, not with the help of their government, but against the dictates of it. My people were here about 80 years before it was legal to build a chimney in a house. We could forget this persecution in the past, but it is carried on today. We must still take the nod and it makes no odds what government is in power, whether Tory, Liberal or Labour. We are not grown up and must be babied, must go the way they think we should go. Are those people mad? I can tell them they are playing with dynamite. Take this Convention, hardly one of us knew the other until we met here, and today although two-thirds of us are of the opinion that the agreement between the British Parliament of 1933 and the Newfoundland parliament of that date should be carried out, what do we find? Dictatorial terms of reference passed not by Newfoundland's elected representatives, no, but by remote control, something that won't allow us to even mention the agreement of 1933. It's *ultra vires*, beyond the scope. To boil it down, it's this. The ballyhoo about Newfoundland's effort in the two wars, her 2,000 dead — they did not die in defence of Newfoundland democracy. They died for the Czechs, the Poles, the Belgians. You have no right to mention that agreement should be carried out. It's *ultra vires*, beyond the scope of the death in action of 2,000 Newfoundlanders and the probable shortening of the lives of 3,000 more. While

the cheers in the Commons and the Lords on Newfoundland's effort in the war are still echoing through the buildings, they were putting out those cursed terms, the scalloped shroud of Newfoundland democracy. While we have always looked upon ourselves as the keystone in the arch of empire loyalty, let Britain beware through this action she does not tumble that arch down by tampering with it.

I can only at this stage affirm my belief in a government by Newfoundlanders for Newfoundlanders, divorced from remote control. A government that should never have been tampered with. We hope that those countries, Britain and the United States, who signed the Atlantic Charter, will take cognisance of this, our appeal from the larger number of the people's only representatives for the past 14 years, and grant that dominion status be given as quickly as possible, and allow us to put before the people whatever type of government they believe in, in a legal manner. Only this will give us back the confidence that we have lost in the mother country. Only then will we believe an Englishman's word is his bond. This has been shown in the manner we have been treated and I, for one, regardless of what my fellow delegates think, believe both the country and the people have not been given a square deal. Politically in life I've carried my end of the plank, in government I want nobody to carry my end of the plank. It's my God-given right, the right man has struggled for a thousand years. Let Britain wipe the slate clean of this wrong she has done her eldest daughter and prove she is not playing power politics and paying only lip service to democracy.

With regard to this form of government that fate seems to have foisted on us, I can only quote one of our politicians when he said that a certain district left a bad taste in his mouth. This form of Commission government has always left a bad taste in my mouth. If it was the best form of government in the world I would say that, and it's not that. I cannot think how anybody with a drop of blood in their veins could say anything else. The first time I contacted Commission of Government it was a puzzle to me — that was in 1936, and in 1948 it still remains the \$64 question — how it operates. I would like to meet the Rip Van Winkle who first worked out the plan, for I'm sure that only somebody who has been asleep for