

tempo and brightened by more knowledge than ever.

I am not one of those who consider that the particular form of government at any given time makes much difference of a fundamental nature in the process I have here sought to indicate. Newfoundland has known many forms of government. We were ruled by ignorant, illiterate "fishing admirals" from the decks of visiting fishing schooners; by itinerant governors who were sent here for a few months each summer; by a much abler class of naval governors who used to remain throughout the year; by a form of representative government; then by a form of government which was a formless amalgamation of representative and responsible government; by full responsible government. Now it is government by Commission.

Governments come and governments go, but the people live on forever, their experience becoming ever more enriched by vicissitudes, failures and successes. The natural resources remain. Governments are artificial and superficial things at best. It is the genius of a people that counts. What will make Newfoundland great and prosperous is not this or that government, this or that form of government; but rather than unconquerable, invincible, dogged courage and spirit so eloquently typified by Basil Gotto's bronze statue in Bowring Park of "The Fighting Newfoundlander."

This government or that may indeed, by its policies and work, help or hinder the slow, upward march of the people whom it has been set to govern. That is about the limit of its power. Its function at best is that of accoucher. It is the people who count; they and their inherent qualities of mind and heart.

The last concluding paragraph is very interesting:

Governments come and go; depressions come and go. The Newfoundlander possesses more than his needed share of fighting spirit; his country possesses a more than generous share of God-given wealth. The combination is irresistible. Greatness Newfoundland deserves; greatness she shall have.¹

Mr. Bradley I do not think that was Mr. Smallwood — I think that was "The Barrelman".

Mr. Higgins That was Mr. Smallwood in the *Book of Newfoundland* in 1937 — Mr. Smallwood when he had no axe to grind and he was telling us what he believed.

I do not know that I can close on a better note than the quotation I gave you from Mr. Smallwood. But I will say this, I cannot resist saying it — Mr. Smallwood has referred to me as a weather-vane; now it would seem that not only is Mr. Smallwood a weather-vane, but he provides the wind to blow it himself.

I am not going to go on further, I thank the members for listening and I trust we will be able to proceed with the matter of voting.

Mr. Chairman The motion before the Chair is: Be it resolved the following forms of government be placed before the people of Newfoundland in the forthcoming referendum, namely (1) responsible government as it existed prior to 1934, (2) Commission of Government.

Voting in favour of the motion:

Messrs. Goodridge, Watton, Banfield, Hollett, MacDonald, Starkes, Jones, Kennedy, Hannon, Spencer, Fudge, Ballam, Northcott, Penney, Reddy, Vincent, Bradley, Smallwood, Dawe, Crummey, Burry, Miller, Ryan, McCarthy, Fowler, Roberts, Keough, Fogwill, Butt, Higgins, Hickman, Cashin, Crosbie, Harrington, Cranford, Vardy, Bailey, Ashbourne.

Messrs. Brown and McCormack — recorded.

[The motion carried unanimously]

Mr. Higgins Could we vote on preference and dispose of that?

Mr. Bradley I think the preference vote should come after both resolutions. It would be just as well to record all the preferences at one time. If, for instance, Mr. Smallwood's motion passes, it may change the voice of some members.

Mr. Higgins I would like to have the preference recorded now.

Mr. Smallwood The logical and practical thing to do is to wait until all the forms are disposed of. My preference may be a form of government we have not yet discussed.

Mr. Higgins You do not have to vote.

Mr. Smallwood When will I get the chance?

Mr. Chairman Whatever fate the next motion receives, you and all the members will be given the opportunity to express your preference and it

¹J.R. Smallwood, "Newfoundland of Today", *The Book of Newfoundland*, Vol. I (St. John's, 1937), pp. 2-3.