

government for the purpose of making international deals with both the United States and Canada.

That, gentlemen, completes the official record of the delegation's visit to the Dominions Office. And we have now passed on to you for what it is worth all the information which has been given us. You now know just as much as we members of the delegation, and are just as competent to arrive at your own conclusions. No doubt during the discussion members will have ample opportunity to express their individual opinions. For myself, before concluding, I wish to express a few purely personal opinions.

Firstly, what did the mission of this delegation to London accomplish? To begin with we were successful in having the £400,000 temporary loan of 1917, on which no interest had been paid, cancelled — it's off the books. Secondly, I contend that we were primarily instrumental in having our sterling debt which amounts to nearly \$72 million and which now bears interest at 3%, converted, or rather we were promised it would be converted, to 2.5% on January 1 next. In addition, we were successful in having the British government use the sinking fund of this debt, which will amount to \$8.25 million in July, for the purpose of reducing this particular debt. By this action the treasury of the country will save at least half a million dollars annually.

We are of the opinion, or at least I am, that because of our representations the Dominions Office will probably devote our interest-free loans to the further reduction of our sterling debt, and that because of our consistent emphasis, there is a good possibility of the United Kingdom giving us an order for our fresh and frozen fish this season. They assure us that they are doing their best, such as it is.

To me, this whole affair simply represents a continuance of the policy which has been operating in Newfoundland since 1934. It is just another piece in the jig-saw puzzle into which Newfoundland has been cut up. But these pieces are gradually being put together, and when the last piece is put in place, and the puzzle solved, some people amongst us may be in for a surprise. Because, if the forces opposed to us have their way, it will not be a picture of Newfoundland they will see, not the Newfoundland which the Commission took over in 1934, but instead a part

of the country we know as Canada. I will have much more to say on this matter at a later date. But for the present let me continue my comments on the delegates' visit.

Let me say that I do not believe that the British government ever wanted to see a delegation from this country coming to England. And why should they? For has not this visit shown that they had long ago finalised their plans concerning us? But this Convention decided to send a delegation, and faced with this request, the British government had no other choice but to put a good face on the matter. It would have been very bad politics for them to have done otherwise. Even so, they showed very little enthusiasm. Members will remember that before they would consider meeting us they demanded that we first place on paper the matters we wished to discuss. This was hardly an invitation to the open and free discussion we had hoped for. You know how it is when someone calls at your door that you don't want to see. If you can't say you are not at home, you tell the servant to ask the man what he wants to see you about, and so it was with us. Viscount Addison first wanted to know what we wanted to see him about to prepare himself in advance. He did not want to be taken by surprise.

Now compare this with the preliminaries of sending a delegation to Canada. Did they send us a guarded request to know what we wanted to see them about? Did they ask for memorandums? Not at all. They almost fell over themselves putting out the welcome hand. A delegation would be welcomed with a heart and a half. The joy bells will ring out in Ottawa when they arrive. Now what does all this mean? In the first place it means that the British government has endorsed Canada's action — that she has encouraged Canada to give us a big hand. And if she has done this, it also means that the British government is prepared to see us go into Canada — that she wants us to go in with Canada. For myself I see in it just a further confirmation of something which I have long expected. I have much interesting evidence, which I may place before this house at a later date, when the matter of forms of government eventually comes up. But for the present I say this, and you may think I am talking rashly if you wish. I say to you that there is in operation at the present time a conspiracy to sell, and I use the word "sell" advisedly, this country