

which abolished the term "colony" as applied to the Dominions, still extends to Newfoundland.

Again, Mr. Chairman, the words are those of Professor Wheare.

Therefore, in voting as I will on this resolution to give our Newfoundland people and ourselves the opportunity of choosing between the present system of benevolent dictatorship, and a return to control of our own affairs, a return to self-government, I would ask them to note what I have said about the Statute of Westminster; and would urge, though it scarcely needs urging, that if this country elects to run its own affairs again, that it insist of its leaders that the Newfoundland parliament adopt the postponed sections of the Statute of Westminster, particularly section 3, which will give us the necessary full control and independence to deal with the USA, towards which the hopes of our people have gradually turned as the solution to whatever economic difficulties we have had or may have in the years ahead.

Mr. Hickman Mr. Chairman, I would like to say first that I am heartily in support of the motion before this House. To my way of thinking, and supported by the facts which I have been able to acquire during the long session of this Convention, I cannot help but feel that the people of this country should first be given the opportunity of having restored to them their own right to free democratic government of themselves and by themselves; and this principle should, I feel, be adopted whatever the circumstances may be. As it happens, this National Convention has unanimously found this country of ours to be self-supporting and the previous Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Wild, stated also that Newfoundland was self-supporting; but even in the event of their not being so, I have come to the conclusion that this should be the first step in any reformation of our political and economic affairs. I say that I have come to this conclusion by facts and other material considerations that I have been able to acquire and carefully study since the opening of this Convention. It has been proven to my own satisfaction that a country can only decide its own future, both securely and safely, through its own government elected by and with the support of the people. It has been obvious to me in recent months, the hopelessness of endeavouring to find so-called security through

methods so undemocratic and so futile of any real success — so helpless in the hands-tied-behind-the-back approach. Neither can our present form of government, however well or poorly they have governed, find a solution to our country's future. They are not our representatives in our sense of the word. Better it be that we decide our own future through our own elected government, even with the unavoidable ups and downs, and remain a people happy in the knowledge that we are our own masters and command our own destiny.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, this National Convention at the outset appointed committees ... and after the completion of the work by the several committees, each report was brought before the full Convention and debated and questioned in what I would consider a very thorough manner. To the members of this Convention, politically and governmentally blindfolded for some 12 years, these reports were undoubtedly of great benefit in helping them assess the present economic position of our country, as well as providing them with some foresight of at least the near future, which in this upset world today would not be possible in a great many countries. I consider that the Finance Committee's report was really in substance a summary and factual finding of the remainder of the reports, and particularly so was their report on the economic position of Newfoundland, which clearly indicated what the people of this country could expect and realise in what was quite rightly called the "foreseeable future". It has been clearly shown to me that this country is economically sound, self-supporting, and in a better position today than it has ever been in its history, and I doubt if there is a country in the world that can compare in this respect to Newfoundland. Our basic industries are in a much more sound, diversified and better economic position to face the future than they were before the war and, for that matter, any previous period in our history.

Briefly, sir, our fisheries, still the main industry of this country, have made great and rapid strides of improvement, and are stronger than ever. The foundation of the fishing industry is today more solid than at any time in our history. The saltfish branch has been greatly improved by useful help in production and curing, and particularly so in the standard of pack for each market, which has made such a great impression