

treated as well as could be expected. I hope that out of the visit of the delegation to London some good will come. The referendum of course will be put to the people some time, I am not prepared to say when. In fact there is no guarantee that it will be, but let's assume that it will. I repeat the statement that I made over there, that the people themselves will be in a position to judge as to what form of government they want at the proper time.

Mr. MacDonaldI have been listening to the speeches of the delegates and I think that 50% of the information that they gave us, and they gave us a good deal, is not contained in the report. Where did it come from? Is it in these secret meetings that we are not supposed to hear about? I think that this Convention should be in possession of the proceedings of these meetings. I would like to ask if you made a definite ruling that we can't get them, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman Yes. This information cannot be divulged.

Mr. MacDonald Thank you.... I don't see anything in this report, as far as I can see, relating to item 7: "Any other matters...." Did the delegation discuss any other matters or not, and if so, can this Convention have that information?

Mr. Chairman I have no recollection of any other matters that were discussed. They may possibly have been incidentally mentioned. One thing that was discussed, which was not specifically mentioned, was the question of frozen fish.

Mr. Smallwood There was one other point that was mentioned and replied to, the question was put to the British government, "Could there be only two forms of government on the ballot?"

Mr. Chairman That's in the answer.

Mr. Smallwood Therefore it was raised. Could there be only two forms, Commission government and responsible government? Their answer is given — they said, "No, that is not so. The Convention can recommend other suitable forms as well to be put before the people."

Mr. KennedyI wish to emphasise the urgency for action in the present position into which we true Newfoundlanders find ourselves bullied. The idea of the 1939-46 conflict having been waged to put an end to all tyranny has become daily more farcical. When men are condemned by a more powerful nation for merely questioning the rule of their own country, the situation calls

for more than polite verbal replies. Daily — one might say hourly — what remains in our dwindling treasury is being disposed of in the same manner in which our soil was wrenched from us for 50 creaking destroyers, a considerable number of which were too decrepit to even survive the Atlantic crossing. I wager that the land wrenched from us for their payment has not deteriorated in its solidity or value. An investigation 12 months after purchase into the worth of the scrap hulks for which part of us were sold, and into the actual number of these destroyers seaworthy enough to be taken into active operation, would no doubt have had interesting results. During these transactions it was my questionable honour and privilege to be a guest of England, and the Dominions Office seemed in no haste for me to leave. I doubt that they enjoyed my company or presence to any great extent, but I was then what my country is proving now, a vassal and useful pawn. As each newly-acquired destroyer broke into pieces or failed to float, my humility was incurred by reminders from English individuals on the apparent worth of our beloved country.

I must admit I expected no more than was received from the dictators that have bled this island in recent years. Major Cashin has already told us that Britain herself is in a precarious position internationally. She is struggling, and the man in fear of drowning has little thought and less ability to save a weaker comrade, even be that comrade in far shallower water. I am consoled by the fact that the majority of the delegation possessed sufficient common sense, sufficient love of their country, sufficient faith in themselves, and sufficient pride and independence to have stood on their feet and not knelt on their knees to the big brother with a whip in his hand.

During early sessions of the Convention the general public was politely, but at the same time unfairly informed that they were only to be given those facts that the Commission decreed they should know. These same people were to stand outside locked doors while the disposal of the assets provided by them, the little people, were explained away without excuse by their servants, imported from England. Surprisingly enough Mr. Newfoundlander took this lying down, as he has learned to take quite a number of impositions