

If a man never makes a mistake, on investigation you will find out he never accomplished anything. I will leave that to posterity.... I have done my best as I saw it. I have put quite a few yaps in it, and I suppose that people thought they could do it better. My only comment on that is that it is a shame that those people did not tell the public what experts they were, and got the people to nominate them for the election. What an awakening the people would have had! What service they would have rendered to the country! Surely Newfoundland should have had the best, but we are just a bunch of common people, trying to find a way out. Some could have done better, others, I venture to say, worse. I will excuse that, especially those of the younger generation. They have been left in a fog of political oblivion for 14 years and were never taught, and never knew how a democracy works. I wonder what one columnist would have written or thought if she had attended the House of Commons and heard the Commons, with the enemy at the gates and the world falling to pieces, take time out to debate if the women sailors' undies would be pink or blue — and other matters just as irrelevant. Perhaps it would have been OK for the Commons to have done that, being learned in the way of democracy, but for Newfoundlanders — I guess they expect the courts of Newfoundland to produce philosophers, but what a kick they got! It is only common men who came in here and I guess we will go down in history as the only *cod*vention that ever sat!

I take this out of a poem, "The Human Nation"; I quote the first verse:

To each is given a kit of tools,
A shapeless mass, a book of rules,
And each must carve e're life is done
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

This I have kept constantly in mind through life, and especially since I have been in this assembly. I weigh this from every angle, and I can assure you it has been my guide. I want to leave, not a stumbling block for the generations that come after, but a stepping stone to higher heights.

I have no political aspirations, for I believe that in the parliament of the future the people should not only elect those who should rule them, but nominate them as well. This is my political

belief, and I can't see anybody with common sense nominating me, and I don't see any political party taking me in. For one thing I don't take the nod from anybody in either hell, earth or heaven, only my Creator, and sometimes not from him — if I did I would be a better man.

Those forms of government, which according to those terms of reference we are to advise the home government on, I take each in turn. First, I believe this is the biggest "jumblement" that was ever foisted on a people, and I am not going to jumble it any more. But with regards to myself I am going to make it clear, the stand I am taking and why I am taking that stand. I am voting that responsible government go on the ballot, but I firmly believe that there should not be a ballot, that Britain, with or without the consent of the people, should give back that which never should have been taken away — the right that 1,400 of our finest laid down their lives for, and at least 1,400 more went to an early grave for — the right of self-government. And the hard part of it is that those in Parliament who at the time raised Cain because it was taken from us when they were in opposition, today are in power and have put into operation this cumbersome, expensive machinery, while without any fanfare they have turned loose, to full and dominion independence, nearly half the Empire. We would have got the same treatment if we had been 1,000 miles southeast of where we are.... Well, as long as water runs I'll always believe that an Englishman's word is not worth the oxygen he uses up to form the word or sentence. Why has this happened? I'll whisper a secret, gentlemen. We did not take the nod, the imperial nod in the sixties, and this time by hook or by crook we are going to take the nod. Now the only thing between us and that imperial nod (in fact now it is a frown) is the people's "X". God grant they will use it wisely. For myself, never will a foreign power, no odds how friendly, hold dominion over the 152,000 square miles of this earth's surface, with my consent, that our forbears helped to claim and colonise.

I look back on the history of my own family, outlawed and under sentence of death after the Jacobite rising in Scotland. The two brothers came to the Isle of Man and from there to New-