

men, of which there are no small number in this country.

Since entering this National Convention I have endeavoured to look at the facts we have had before us with an unbiased mind. I have been sincere; and have endeavoured to be fair in all my criticisms and findings, and to look at this whole question of our future in the light of what is best for the most of our people, and best for Newfoundland.

There were words written some number of years ago, not written for the most important time in our history, but nevertheless most fitting to this time of very far-reaching decisions:

As loved our fathers so we love,
Where once they stood we stand;
Their prayer we raise to Heaven above,
God guard thee, Newfoundland.

Mr. Cranford Mr. Chairman, in 1934 when the Commission of Government took over the affairs of this country, a great many people, including myself, thought it was a move in the right direction. We thought it would be like a father who saw that his children had gone astray, and had made a move to put things right. The people of this country today are greatly disappointed, or may I say disgusted to find that such was not the case. It was more like a group of people who would like to hold the reins of power forever. In the light and knowledge of the actions of Commission of Government, and confirmed by this National Convention, every action of the Commission was to make the people of this country believe that we could remain solvent only under the form of Commission of Government, and that government only is honest enough to carry on the affairs of this country. That is as I see it, and I would like the people of this country to understand that I am not dictated to by any man, nor am I affiliated with any firm or corporation, either in business or politics.

There never was a government that was in a better position to do what was best for this country than Commission of Government. They were under no obligation whatever to the voters; therefore there was no pressure that could be forced upon them, and no excuse they can give for not doing everything that was in the best interest of the country. What do we find? From 1934 to 1939, the only difference between Commission of Government and responsible govern-

ment was that the British government recognised the Commission of Government, when they were not prepared to recognise responsible government. That is the only difference that I can see; they carried along on the same lines as all former governments, without any improvement whatever. They made no attempt to change our method of business to help the fishermen and workers, but instead made it worse for them, and for the country in general. They put us further in debt. In 1939 the Commission of Government had a deficit of \$4,069,320 as compared with a deficit of \$1,528,525 in 1934 when they took over. I refer you to the Financial Report, pages 20 and 30. It can be clearly seen that the Commission of Government did not handle our affairs any better than responsible government in the light of our financial standing from 1934 to 1939. If there had been no world war, what would have happened? Would there be any Commission of Government to be bothered with today? So far as I am concerned I am going to consider the stewardship of this caretaker government in the light of their actions from 1934 to 1939. Since that time illiterate women would have run the affairs of this country just as well. For my part I cannot see one act of the Commission of Government that could be commendable.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to make a few remarks in connection with just two acts of the Commission which, in my opinion, will give a fair illustration of all their acts. First, so-called free and compulsory education. I say "so-called" because there is a 60% duty on exercise books, scribblers, pencils, etc. imported into this country. Therefore the word "free" is absurd. "Inconsistency thou art a jewel!" Second, the spending of thousands of dollars preaching co-operation, and causing thousands of dollars to be lost by the same people that co-operatives would benefit. Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be misunderstood. I do not want people to think for one moment that I am against co-operation, but quite the contrary. What I want to point out is the inconsistency of the Commission of Government. Thousands of dollars were lost to the fishermen and workers of this country by the creation of the government's Supply Department, by killing the trade of the outport importer and uprooting the business that had taken them a lifetime to establish, and the fishermen and