

centage of our population who need treatment. This degrading dole left some of us so lethargic and apathetic that we have lost the spirit of independence for which our forbears were noted, and are ready to run begging someone else to do for us that which we will not do for ourselves.

We did not go to England seeking charity, rather seeking information which we had a right to expect, and this report at least leaves us in no doubt as to England's attitude toward us. Our confederates are overjoyed at its contents and feel that it is a real boost for their cause, but I would remind them that even though civics was never taught in our schools, the ordinary Newfoundlanders, instinctively or otherwise, can be depended on to make a common sense decision, and is not to be swayed by the oratorical powers of any propagandists in this Convention.

Mr. Chairman, there appears to be a difference of opinion in the delegation as to its reception in England, but the tenor of the report leaves little room to doubt the feeling of the majority. Lord Addison and his colleagues would seem to have some resentment towards the delegation, and I am of the opinion that the full report of the conversations in England should be laid before the Convention, convened in private session.

**Mr. Smallwood** I think Mr. McCormack said that the British government has told us that if we go back to responsible government, then the British government will no longer be responsible for our sterling debt...

**Mr. McCormack** That is right.

**Mr. Smallwood** I think it is utterly incorrect. I do not see in the memoranda from the British government any such statement. I have not heard any of the delegates who went to London make the statement. I am aware there are people in this town who seem to have got the impression that if we go under responsible government the British government will repudiate the guarantee of our sterling debt. It is wrong. It is utterly untrue...

**Mr. McCormack** I thank Mr. Smallwood for pointing out my error.

**Mr. Hollett** Whilst I appreciate the excellence of the speech of Mr. McCormack, it was an error. I believe someone else made the same statement yesterday. Great Britain guaranteed in 1934 the interest on the debt, otherwise they could not have converted it and it could not have gone back

to par. Whether Commission government, responsible government, confederation or any other status, it does not matter, because Great Britain has guaranteed the interest on that debt, whatever form of government.... I thank Mr. Smallwood for bringing up this point.

**Mr. Smallwood** I thought I had a chance to have a knock at responsible government, but I gave responsible government a boost. Really, I think Mr. Hollett should thank me a little more heartily.

**Mr. Higgins** It would not be that Mr. Smallwood was more worried about Commission of Government in putting in his five cents' worth for responsible government?

**Mr. Smallwood** I am one who wants self-government for Newfoundland ... but it is my opinion that the majority of people want Commission government—I say that as one who does not want Commission of Government, but as one who wants self-government. In my opinion Commission government is the most popular government in Newfoundland at this moment.

**Mr. Higgins** In other words, the Gallup poll is the "Smallwood poll."

**Mr. Hollett** I believe Mr. Smallwood is getting off on the wrong foot. Yesterday I addressed him, and looked up and found he was not in his seat, and then he cried from across the house, "Here I am." So you see Mr. Smallwood has already walked across this House.

**Mr. Vardy** ....This report should have been debated when the main report is brought before the Convention, and I see no point in covering a lot of ground over which we will have to retrace our steps at a later date. The information from London is exactly as I anticipated. What can reasonably be expected from the British people they have promised to do, except we feel they could purchase more from this country. What criticism we have to offer should be directed to the Commission as an irresponsible group of individuals who appear to stop at nothing except what would be in the best interests of this country.

The Dominions Office assumes no risk whatever in continuing to guarantee our bonds while there is a surplus, but the responsibility is ours to recommend or help to provide our people with a government which this country should have, and can afford....

**Mr. Bailey** ... I am mildly surprised that we have