

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Begun and holden at St. John's in the said Island on Wednesday, the 11th day of September, Anno Domini nineteen hundred and forty-six, being in the tenth year of the Reign of His Majesty, our Sovereign Lord George, by the Grace of

God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

September 11, 1946

Pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Macdonald, K.C.M.G., issued on August 2, 1946, the members of the National Convention met at 11.45 am, September 11, 1946, and at noon, the Chairman, Hon. Mr. Justice Fox, K.C., met the assembled members in the former House of Assembly chambers, Colonial Building.

The proclamation was read by the Secretary, Captain W. Gordon Warren, R.A. The commission of Hon. Mr. Justice Fox, K.C. was read by the Secretary.

The Chairman then took the chair and addressed the members of the National Convention as follows:

Gentlemen of the National Convention: It is not my intention to address you at any length this morning, but I do wish to avail of this opportunity — an occasion unprecedented in the annals of this colony, of great, perhaps fateful, moment in all our lives, and as future generations may consider it, of equally great historic importance and of far reaching consequence in the national life of this beloved Newfoundland of ours — to express to you, and to publicly acknowledge my profound sense of appreciation of the honour conferred upon me in being appointed Chairman of this National Convention. In that spirit I solemnly and unreservedly affirm to you, with a single-minded purpose and deeply cherished hope, my fervent desire to serve you faithfully and well, and, to the utmost of my ability, to co-operate with you and to assist you in your all-important work and in the performance of the responsible duties — nay, sacred trust — which you have undertaken, in the name and on behalf of our country.

I cordially greet and welcome you, and most heartily congratulate you upon your election by

the free voice of our people as their representatives to this Convention; and I unite with them in the confidence which you so well deserve and which they thus have manifested, in your capacity and competence successfully to accomplish the tasks which lie ahead, and in your integrity and honour worthily to uphold the lofty traditions of which you are today the proud custodians and I am sure always will be the fearless exponents, to the end that under Providence this dear land may prosper and progress, and her people find true peace and lasting happiness and contentment. May God assist and direct you in your deliberations and decisions.

The main purpose of our assembling here this morning, gentlemen, is to have the members sign the roll. As your names are called, will you please come to the desk, in twos, and sign your names.

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In the following order the names were called by the Secretary and the members signed the roll:

Mr. Crummey,	(District of Bay de Verde)
Mr. Dawe	(District of Bay Roberts)
Mr. Jackman	(District of Bell Island)
Mr. Smallwood	(District of Bonavista Centre)
Mr. Bradley	(District of Bonavista East)
Mr. Vincent	(District of Bonavista North)
Mr. Brown	(District of Bonavista South)
Mr. Figary	(District of Burgeo)
Mr. Reddy	(District of Burin East)
Mr. Hillier	(District of Burin West)
Mr. Penney	(District of Carbonear)
Mr. Goodridge	(District of Ferryland)
Mr. Watton	(District of Fogo)
Mr. Banfield	(District of Fortune Bay)
Mr. Hollett, M.A.	(District of Grand Falls)
Mr. MacDonald	(District of Grand Falls)
Mr. Starkes	(District of Green Bay)