

common reason is used. And a lot of the arguments we've heard here are not what any intelligent person could call sound reasoning. Our people are not as gullible as some persons may think.... The arguments in many cases are weak. Let us have faith first in ourselves, for without trust and confidence in our own ability we will not be much of an asset to any country. Let us pave the future with courage and devotion to the land that gave us what we have. If we are hurt in the process, let us try to do better, and the same hand that guides all nations cherish such ambitions, and faith in themselves will bring Newfoundland to her reward. I recommend an independent country on her own, or a proud partner in a larger family. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hillier Mr. Chairman, with your kind permission, I wish to make a few remarks of a general nature. During the past few days, I have had the privilege to listen to some eloquent speeches bearing on matters now before the Chair. They made recommendations on which confederation might be considered. Major Cashin in his forcible address made reference to the necessity of a comparable future in considering the entry into confederation; to that I agree. He also gave evidence that the ancient political spirit is not dead. Mr. Higgins, among other things, pointed out that by reason of Newfoundland's geographical position she gradually grew in influence. He felt that under the circumstances the Ottawa delegation had done a good job and that the recommendations before us were a good basis for future negotiations. He stated further that confederation could be taken up at some future date. He gave me the impression that he had a feeling that at some future date it would be to the advantage of Newfoundland to unite with a larger power. I might say in passing that there are those who share our view. Mr. Harrington gave us a historical picture of Newfoundland, leading us step by step to her present importance. Other speakers have had their quota of interesting information. The majority, I think, advocated a return to responsible government realising of course that the final say rests with the people of Newfoundland.... I have but one vote and after careful consideration of the whole question confronting us, I shall do what I feel is in the general interest of this country.... The debate on the terms is shortly to be concluded, as is the Convention

itself. In connection with the latter I say that it is high time. On the former, I am led to wonder to what extent have our people been helped in the making of the great and serious decision they will eventually be called upon to make. Personally sir, I feel they have not by this Convention been given the help they expected, and could and should have been given. I am convinced, further, far too much time has been taken up in airing our special political views. In consequence our people are left in mid-air, left to decide a great question based on knowledge they have acquired apart largely from that which was drawn out through the medium of this Convention. I said some time ago that this Convention would go down in history. It certainly shall, and be remembered for one of two things: either what it did or did not accomplish for the common good of our fellow man. During the Christmas recess, Mr. Chairman, I met and conversed with men from districts other than my own and I am more than ever convinced that a lot of our people are disappointed because of the lack of helpful information thus far emanating from this Convention.... I would have to say that it is not too late yet. The choosing of forms of government sir, is something which should not be treated lightly.... It is generally felt that the mischief started in the early stages of the Convention by the entry of party politics which still is in evidence, that it has retarded somewhat the real purpose and work of this Convention. Some have expressed themselves in favour of responsible government. Some have expressed themselves as favourable to union with Canada. That is their right.... Personally, because I feel that the question of confederation calls for careful thought based on definite and reliable facts, I refrain from expressing my opinion as to the wisdom or otherwise of union with Canada. I do not mean to infer that the facts before us are not reliable or that I am hostile to confederation. I feel that at some time in the not too distant future, it will be much to the advantage of Newfoundland to unite to some larger power than herself, whatever that power may be. Every man and woman in this land will, in due time, be called upon to consider and make a choice of forms of government submitted to them. How necessary it is then, that they be well, impartially and correctly informed on all matters and that any personal ambitions of ours which