

British Empire, of goods taken from sea, forest, mines and land, and its all plain to the world that any country where exports exceed imports that country is in a healthy condition, except Newfoundland. If we are going to eat, as Mr. Newell states, we have to find out how and where we are going to eat. We have got to have a plan and a government that will give us that freedom from fear and want that so many of us fought for.

I could not help thinking, when listening to Mr. Wild, with a revenue of \$33 million, how our country in 1930 had exports valued at \$7 million and a revenue of \$1.25 million. Take our position today and then, are we not that much better off? If our social security and way of living would only increase with our export and revenue, then we sure would have heaven on earth. I think in those days our "crooked" politicians did a good job, and if we get men of their stamp and managing ability, plus the advanced knowledge of the last 46 years, it will augur well for the country. I am not in accord with this big plan spending. I believe in retrenchment with a capital "R" for the days that are always ahead after a war. Then plan. "Today" has always characterised their actions in the past — always the wrong thing at the wrong time. I believe the government is making a mistake.

I voted against Mr. Smallwood bringing in an expert. I'm no BA but I don't want any expert to tell me why we don't eat or why we can't balance budgets. I have been a left wing socialist since 1910, and have travelled to nearly every country with a coastline in the world. I have been fortunate to meet folks who are trying and planning a better way of life. I have also taken notice of conditions in Newfoundland for 45 years and I'm not at all surprised that things are as they are, in fact with our laissez faire way its a wonder they are not worse.... I can answer Mr. Newell, before we eat we have to have a government "of the people, for the people and by the people" who will see that those conditions are eliminated and the common man is represented. I spent the six years of the war with 28 voyages to Europe, with Russia and the Mediterranean thrown in, and I can assure my learned colleague, Major Cashin, that the ports of Britain are no stranger to me. I detested the Commission of Government and would have fought it if it had been the best government in the world, and it was a long way

from that, for I believe in democracy. I'm still of that mind. I could not get any news of what was going on home from this side, so I tried on the other. I met quite a few men who are in power today. I remember one of them saying, "Newfoundland with nearly 20,000 of her sons and daughters working and fighting for democracy is under a dictatorship. It sounds ridiculous, but we don't know what to do for Newfoundland for they don't know what they want themselves." I'm sure we cannot place the blame on the Labour Party, for had you, Major Cashin, got 50 or 60 men together of sterling character and demanded self rule with a united populace behind you, Labour would have fought for us and I think the Tory element would have been glad to have changed it.... The only chance for the Labour Party to find out if there was really any political talent and interest in government was to call a National Convention. Take it from me, Labour is in sympathy with us and don't put the blame on them. I agree with you about our getting out a financial report by Newfoundlanders wholeheartedly, and the quicker our way; the British way in getting back our independence is going to be expensive and a long-drawn out affair, and we should petition His Majesty's Government, as we are an elected body and heartily sick of Commission of Government, and ask if they will turn the government over to us ... and let us put parties in the field, first for responsible government, second for modified Commission of Government, third for confederation with Canada, fourth North of Ireland status, and for three years educate our people in what they have lost, so our people will have full knowledge of the issues at stake. I believe this is the best and cheapest way, and I don't think it should be left to a later date. I believe this would be parliamentary, and no man could say the country was sold down the street. I have never thought the Commission of Government legal. The Statute of Westminster states these seven self-governing nations within the British Commonwealth of Nations are in no way subordinate to each other, neither in their domestic or foreign policy, and as I read it that cannot be changed without a plebiscite of the people. That plebiscite was not held, the Alderdice government was elected to bring back prosperity to the country, not to sell it.... We, as the first elected body of Newfoundlanders, will forget the