

that an elected government of Newfoundlanders, pledged to undertake this investigation into confederation, is the only proper solution of the confederation issue. That is my advice to those of you who feel that confederation is the best solution for Newfoundland. However, I want to say quite emphatically, that I am far from convinced that we can't do a better job running our own affairs. You hear the oft-repeated question, "Oh, we have not the men, where are we going to get the leaders?" That is nothing else but pure poppycock. The more contacts I have had with people outside Newfoundland, the more it makes me realise that we have in this country ample material to provide the type of men to do the job properly. Remember, if we had federal union with Canada, we would have to provide the men to go to Ottawa, and to man the provincial parliament here, and if we have to get that number of men, surely we can get the number of men required to run responsible government. I see no reason at all why we have to enter confederation. We are self-supporting at the present time, we all admit that, and it is up to us as a people to continue to be self-supporting. We have been told that under confederation there would be great advantages to Newfoundland. That may be so, but you gentlemen are old enough to know that you never get something for nothing, and that for this country to continue its present standard of living, and to increase that standard, is dependent primarily on the resources of the country itself. That is one inescapable fact. If our own resources are unable to produce a good livelihood for the people of Newfoundland, then no form of government is going to do so. That is one basic fact that nobody can dispute, nobody in this Convention or out of it. It may be true that some of our services would be improved, but essentially the country itself must provide for the people of the country, and all over the world today you have people fighting for the right to govern themselves. Here in Newfoundland some of us are fighting against the right to govern ourselves. What manner of people are we at all? Have we lost the courage of our forefathers, have we forgotten the value of our country? Do we want to be pensioners, to live off the charity of some other country? Someone has to provide a living for us, and this at a time when our country is in the strongest position it has ever been. To my card-

playing friends I say we are sitting with a pat hand, and people want us to throw in the hand and get a new deal. What absolute nonsense! Gentlemen, it would be the worst form of madness, and the most arrant cowardice on the part of the people of this country if we don't agree to assume our own rightful obligation of governing ourselves. I don't believe the fact can be repeated too often that the arrangements made with the British government, by the inauguration of the Commission government, was that responsible government would be restored to Newfoundland when we were self-supporting, and upon request of the Newfoundland people. Is this not the first step? With all my heart and mind I recommend you to the adoption of that course.

Once again I would refer you back to that Atlantic Charter signed August 12, 1941, by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, at that time Winston Churchill, and the President of the United States, the late Franklin D. Roosevelt. Quoting that paragraph: "They respect the right of a people to choose the form of government under which they live, and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them." Well, if we have not been forcibly deprived of self-government, we went very close to that particular point. There is an old Latin tag that I remember, "Wrong is done by force or fraud". If we did not lose our government by force we lost it by the wrong of fraud.

I would have you consider, in closing, an article by the late Sir William Allardyce, who was Governor of Newfoundland in 1924, an article which is pertinent today:

Those who know Newfoundland well believe that she has a great future ahead of her. It is a land of wonderful possibilities and undeveloped resources. The story of the colony is a thrilling record of hardships endured, dangers defied, difficulties overcome, and if the present generation will only to themselves be true the Newfoundland of the future will not only be the oldest jewel in the Empire's coronet, but will be one of the most brilliant.

And so Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of this National Convention, I say to you in the words of George Washington at the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787: "Let us raise a