

lapse of the past and hold the mother country to the Statute of Westminster, so let us go ahead and appeal to the mother country to allow us to take our place without a lot of beating around the bush, take over the job and quit ourselves as men.... Se let us clear lower decks and face whatever our country calls for.

Mr. Fowler Mr. Chairman, if I recall correctly some speakers in the early stages of this debate called for an end to oratory and the beginning of the real business of this Convention. I think that this was not the end but the beginning of such oratory, and while I realize that it is a great temptation to any delegate, conscious of his ability, to burst forth in flowery speech, yet I also contend, sir, that the sooner we get down to real business the better.

I agree that the people of this country are very much concerned over this business of eating in the future, but feel sure the great majority are also gravely concerned over the way they will vote, and as to whether they will have that precious right restored to them in future years. You need more than a full stomach in order to have a contented people, and history will bear out that statement.

We are about to discuss the report of the Dominions Office. This, I hope, will be an interesting study, and give us a first class picture of our financial and economic position at the present. But how this Convention or any other body can determine whether Newfoundland will be self-supporting in say ten years from now, regardless of what form of government we adopt, is more than I can understand; and since the basis of our economy is by no means stable, a chance on the future must be taken in any event. Therefore, in order to justify ourselves before posterity, we owe it to them as well as to ourselves, to secure if possible a form of government which will embody the highest ideals of democracy and permit of the greatest opportunities for all. To this end, gentlemen, let us take up the work at hand in harmony and unity. Let us not strike the note of discord too loudly, for there are eager ears listening, but, in the words of Britain's wartime prime minister, "Let us go forward together."

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, we have certainly had an opportunity to hear all shades of opinion. I am amused at the idea of the open mind, and also of making sure of three meals a day. In order

to bring this thing to a close, I move that the question be now put with regard to the acceptance of the report.

Mr. Smallwood I have already spoken and I can't speak again, but may there not be other delegates who may wish to speak?

Mr. McCormack Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, I did not propose to address the Convention as I am unaccustomed to public speaking, also because I consider all this speech-making so much waste of time that could be used to better advantage. However, as it seems to be the order of the day and apparently expected by many, I now ask for your tolerance.

Few of us came here with this so-called open mind, and as was to be expected, the proponents of the different forms of government are already showing their partiality to those whom they look to as leaders. I believe, however, that all are motivated with a sincere and honest desire to arrive at recommendations which will be of greater benefit to the many rather than to the few. It should be remembered meantime that each one of us expects to form conclusions from facts obtained, rather than from oratory in debate before these facts are obtained. The Steering Committee is to be complimented in this connection in dividing the work between the different committees and we may now hope for more expediency in obtaining the information relative to our work.

Many questions have been tabled, most of them relevant, but not all of them absolutely necessary, the replies to which may be difficult to obtain, and, as the Hon. Mr. Wild suggested, it would be well to confine them to essentials, otherwise the compilation of replies will outlive the Convention itself. Surely we can arrive at an estimate of our national economy approximate enough to meet our requirements without seeking after minute details. With reference to our national income, we cannot hope to obtain even a fairly approximate figure when no tabulation of individual incomes is available from the majority, and even those would not contain supplementary income. I might refer to a large number throughout the island receiving monetary gifts regularly or otherwise from friends or relatives within the United States and Canada. I would suggest, in this connection, that Convention delegates, whom it may be assumed are conver-