

best thing for Newfoundland. All we want is the right men, and there are lots of them in the Convention, who are a credit to their race." That's what this old fisherman said, this old man who still wants to go on fishing. Let this be a lesson for us. Let us take fate by the throat and go forward.

Mr. McCormack When this Convention was convened I understood that its purpose was the collection and digestion of facts with a view to determining whether this country was self-supporting, and for how long a period it could reasonably hope to remain so. I felt satisfied that all delegates, as well as all Newfoundlanders, would want nothing less than responsible government, if after investigation and deliberation we came to the conclusion that we were self-supporting. Since that time many extraneous matters have been introduced which tended to befog our original purpose. I realised that we had men amongst us who were not only more familiar than I with Newfoundland affairs, but also more experienced in public debate. I felt that our real job was the collection and analysis of facts, and not a political platform or an opportunity to display our oratorical qualifications. For this reason, Mr. Chairman, I observed the maxim that speech is silver but silence is golden, and I cannot but think that the radio audience often wished that some delegates did likewise. I remained silent, even when one of our most loquacious delegates practically insulted all delegates like myself who were not in love with our own melodious voices when, commenting on some letters in the public press and seeking to justify his long-winded and repetitious speeches, he conveyed the impression that any delegate with brains must necessarily speak to the different reports, and associated himself with half a dozen others as being the brains of the outfit. I don't know if the others felt flattered.... I do not make any apologies for these irrelevancies, as I have been obliged to listen to too many since last September.

In speaking to this report I had hoped for a lot more than it contains. We sent a delegation to England to obtain facts which only England could give us, and which were necessary to us if we were to be in a position to make recommendations on future forms of government. We realised that the Dominions Office was in effect the real government of Newfoundland. We

realised also that the Dominions Office should have volunteered this information months ago if the English government meant this Convention to be more than a glorious stall....

We are told that we will have to take full responsibility for our sterling debt if we assume responsible government, regardless of the fact that the loan when raised was guaranteed by Britain. We are told that the delegation had no authority to discuss trade and other matters, regardless of the fact that they agreed to receive the delegation, having been fully advised of the matters the delegation wished to discuss. We are told that because of dollar shortage they cannot guarantee to take any substantial quantity of our fish or iron ore, regardless of their awareness of what it would mean to our economy, and that we would accept goods in kind and even lend them dollars to buy our frozen fish fillets. We are told that the Commission government in its prudence doesn't deem it wise to apply the interest-free loans to the reduction of our debt, regardless of the fact that we have a substantial surplus and that the saving in interest would be considerable. We are told that we must pay any deficit on the Gander airport up to \$225,000, regardless of the fact that we have no use for it ourselves and that international airlines need its facilities.

We are told that there is no reason to think that the United States government would be prepared to make any variation or give any *quid pro quo* on the base deals, regardless of article 28 of that agreement and of the fact that our sovereign rights were violated by the leasing of our territory for 99 years with utter disregard for our feelings. We are even reminded that we owe our wartime immunity to the presence of the US forces in the island, regardless of the fact that they came here for their own defence rather than for ours.

We are warned that should we decide on responsible government we are on our own but that, should we retain Commission government, our financial stability would be guaranteed, regardless of the fact that when Britain was in a far better position to assist us, and when we really needed her assistance, the guarantee of financial stability amounted to the staggering sum of six cents a day dole. I say staggering advisedly, as it left us our present phenomenal expenditure on public health and welfare, with our hospitals and sanatoriums unable to accommodate a large per-