

I have a divided opinion. In some instances, yes; in others, definitely no. Could a continuation bring about a greater achievement on their part? That I greatly doubt. It would appear on the face of things, and I believe would be borne out by deeper investigation, that a government so constituted may make progress in its early days and then become routine. This, I fear, is the condition today; and I have much the same opinion of monotonous routine as I have of tedious repetition.

When the British government adopted the recommendations of the Amulree Commission, I believe they did so in the best interests of Newfoundland. If in some way their own interests, which might have been impaired by their association with us, were protected, in that I see no great wrong. Viewed in these later years, the recommendations they submitted have helped us along and we are willing to give credit where credit is due. I feel quite certain we will be glad to see continued much of the organisation they set in place and it was meant to be that way. For they were to undertake to strengthen our economic and financial structure which would, in time, put our country in good standing and having done that, the government would be passed back to the people.

Many things have been said about that transaction. As it came into effect it displeased many, if not all; and strong opinions were expressed as to other possible ways out. Truly, they could have left some vestige of representation with us. We yielded, believing that we would have sent here men of the highest calibre, men to develop our industrial life as well as play watchdog on our treasury. No barriers were created by us in the selection of these men. If the good and useful did not come, the fault is surely that of the Dominions Office. All this can be excused on the ground that they were taking things in their stride. Just when they planned to get us out of the woods seemed very obscure. However, perhaps everyone's purpose is served today.

One thing for which we can be thankful today, is that we did not suffer impairment of our form of government permanently. Written into that original recommendation and subsequently into the Letters Patent constituting Commission of Government, is the promise of restoration, if and when the people request it. A proviso to this is

that the country be self-supporting to the extent that reasonable assurance of its ability to maintain self-government be evident. We first heard of Newfoundland being self-supporting from the outside world. And in fairness to the British government, it may be said that they lost no time in setting up machinery to determine the people's wishes. Perhaps the invidiousness of their position out here was all too well realised.

Now we have reached the point where we are to decide the extent of their usefulness and the possibility of further advancement under Commission government rule. For my part, I believe they have done their job and should go. First because I see no justification in the continuance of a dictatorial form of government, and secondly because I want to see it supplanted by a responsible government with full dominion status. It is to me a tragedy that we cannot negotiate our external affairs. Witness the many attempts made by the Hon. R.B. Job in trying to get outside the curtain — not but that I am fully aware of the lift along which Great Britain gives in world markets. I do not suggest anything but the closest friendship with the mother country; but our position has been so unsatisfactory, having to sell in one currency and buy in another, that I look for some solution to it. That solution I can see only in economic ties with the USA. There, to a nation of 130 million people, we should be able to sell largely, and purchase all our requirements. This may be wishful thinking. I do not for a minute entertain the thought that the USA would want us to enter political union, and I would definitely be opposed to it. But there should be a pooling of advantages, with greater returns to our country. For that is just what Great Britain did in the base deal, with greater return to Great Britain.

If we are to have a night session tonight, I could resume at that time.

Mr. Chairman I want to remind you again of the time limits which the members decided on last Friday; and that tomorrow, in the ordinary way, will be the last day open for the debate on this motion now before the Chair. I want to resolve this tonight. We could therefore resume the session at eight o'clock. We have to try and facilitate quite a number of members.

[The Convention adjourned until 8 pm]

Mr. Miller It seems to me that in this Christian world a people who work and produce, as do our