

cion or trickery. Either of these latter methods is likely to prove disastrous. Witness the case of PEI, a separate geographical unit like ourselves, whose prime minister, 72 years after union with Canada, publicly declared a few years ago, "The real trouble is, we shouldn't be part of Canada at all".

I am quite aware that there are a number of people in favour of union with Canada; so there were in 1867 and in 1895, and I am in no way trying to prevent those people, who are undoubtedly loyal Newfoundlanders, from getting what has been called "the terms", but I do contend that these terms must be obtained by the proper constitutional means. I am also aware that there are more people who would prefer a closer association with the USA. There are also constitutional means to attain that end. We know, too, that a great number of our people are not anxious to get farther away from the mother country, and particularly so when that mother country, having sacrificed her resources to save the civilisation which we enjoy is for the moment in dire distress.

There is much more that could be said about this issue, but I shall content myself with once again registering a continuing opposition to the idea of this Convention sending any delegation to Canada at this or any future time on the following grounds. First, our terms of reference give us no such authority. Second, the people who sent us here gave us no such authority. Third, as "terms" always envisage bargaining, that bargaining must be done by duly appointed representatives with the mandatory power of the people behind them.

We come now to the question of sending a delegation to the United Kingdom. Against this idea there can be no objection because there are many matters about which the Convention should have a clearer picture than we have. To that end, Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to lay on the table a notice of motion relative thereto:

Whereas it has been intimated to this Convention by His Excellency the Governor in Commission, that he is prepared to forward to the Government of the United Kingdom any enquiries from this Convention respecting financial and fiscal relationships which may be expected in the event that the people of this country at the proposed forthcoming referendum to be held in Newfoundland,

should decide on any of the following forms of government:

1. Commission of Government in its present form;
2. A revised form of Commission of Government;
3. Responsible government;
4. Any other suitable form of government;

And Whereas His Excellency has further informed us that should the Convention request discussion of these questions with the Government of the United Kingdom by a delegation from the Convention members, His Excellency will enquire and inform the Convention whether such a delegation would be received;

And Whereas in the event that such a delegation shall proceed to England for the purpose aforesaid the Commission of Government has undertaken to give all possible assistance in making transport and other arrangements for the delegates;

And Whereas this Convention, in view of the importance of the matters hereunder outlined are of opinion that such a delegation should be despatched;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that this Convention request His Excellency the Governor in Commission to acquaint His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of their desire to send a delegation consisting of the Chairman and six of its members to the United Kingdom at the earliest possible moment to discuss with the said United Kingdom government the various matters set forth hereunder;

Be It Further Resolved that as soon as His Excellency the Governor in Commission informs us of the willingness of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to accede to our request said delegation shall be elected by secret ballot;

And Be It Finally Resolved that the Steering Committee be requested to prepare a detailed statement of the questions to be submitted to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom; such statement of questions to be submitted to the National Convention for confirmation before being delivered to His Excellency the Governor in Commission for transmission to the United Kingdom.