

effort, without disorder, without upheaval, without injury to the essential character of our national institutions. But if we won't try it, don't be surprised if some arise in our midst who want to try it another way. I hope I haven't been sounding like Jeremiah helping Cassandra with her homework. It has not been my intention to try to put the fear of God into somebody by scaremongering. It's been my intention merely to indicate a significant phenomenon of our times, in consequence of which our economy will come to be changed. In that regard there is this that I can say in favour of these proposed arrangements for union. They meet the inevitable half-way. I hope that the change that must come will be accomplished without class conflict and social unrest. It can be, given the will. Economic security and political liberty are not incompatible. I think that a satisfactory synthesis of the two can be achieved, to which the Christian conscience can subscribe. In our instance, the cause of peace and happiness, and the dignity of life in this land, will best be served if we go forward into the future prepared and ready to put in the way of the common man a larger slice of the cake that is ours to share. Indeed, only if the like be done all over the world, can mankind hope to see restored and kept inviolate the temple of human freedom and dignity.

Now, gentlemen of the National Convention, we go on to the last theme of all, to the recommendation of forms of government to appear upon the ballot, and a page of history is waiting to be written. A page of history is waiting to be written by the people of Newfoundland too. As they turn to face the greatest challenge that has ever been theirs to face, as they come to the making of the greatest decision that has ever been theirs to make, I should like to repeat for their guidance and their consolation the words with which His Majesty the King concluded his first wartime Christmas broadcast: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light, that going forth into the darkness I may know whither it is I go. And he said to me, 'Go out into the unknown and put your hand into the hand of God, and that shall be to you better than a light, and safer than the known way.'"

Mr. Ballam Mr. Chairman, I have said nothing so far in this debate because I did not see the need of saying anything. The piloting of the debate has

been in good hands, and my feeling has been that too many cooks might spoil the broth.... This debate is now drawing to a close, and I want to say a few words just so that my silence might not be misunderstood. I want to go on record as being deeply impressed, as one of the Ottawa delegation, by the warm and sincere reception we got in Canada. From the time we stepped ashore in North Sydney, all we met was kindness and sincerity. It was very plain to see that the Government of Canada was very glad to have us visit them, as I know they will be glad to have Newfoundland. It is very plain that they would welcome Newfoundland into their family of provinces. This feeling was not confined to members of the government, all the public men of all political parties were very glad to see us and to make us welcome. I'm sure that my friend Mr. Higgins will remember the delightful evenings we spent at the home of the leader of the opposition, Mr. Bracken.... In every way possible the people and the Government of Canada made us welcome. Before we left Ottawa, we had all come to feel that we were among friends. There was no gulf between us, except for the Cabot Strait of course, just friendly and sincere understanding all the time. Whatever the people may do in the referendum this spring, the members of the Ottawa delegation, that clever and austere body of men, will always remember the kind friendships that we met in Ottawa. I think I can also say, Mr. Chairman, that we were surprised almost every day by the knowledge that these Canadians showed of Newfoundland. I can assure you that we didn't have to go up to Ottawa to tell them anything about Newfoundland, because they knew all about it before we went. This book on Newfoundland by Dr. MacKay is a masterpiece.... They had studied our country, our trade and industries, and they certainly had an excellent knowledge of the country.

This Ottawa delegation, this famous delegation that will go down in history, was sent to Ottawa by this Convention for a special purpose. We knew what we were going for. We were going there to ascertain what fair and equitable basis there might be for federal union. That was our job — what we sometimes call the terms of federal union or confederation. We never lost sight of that for one moment. Mr. Higgins might have, but the rest of us didn't. It is quite true that we did not