

raising my voice in protest at some of the things that have gone on, and I know that some of my friends outside have expected me to do that. But seeing it from inside this chamber and seeing it from outside is different; and 45 men getting together here, knowing human nature as I do, I don't think that we have done so badly. I am bound to say that there's been too much politics in it. I didn't bargain for that when I came to this Convention. I didn't think there was going to be any politics at all associated with it. But that shows just how innocent I was, and just how ignorant I was about politics. But on the whole, while I have had to hang on to my chair sometimes to keep myself from rising in protest at the way that some of the members have acted, yet I have allowed discretion to be the better part of valour and I have held my chair, although I have been much criticised for not sometimes rising....

I want no part of politics in the future. Therefore I don't think that the decision that I have been able to make has been prejudiced. I have come to that decision as a result of a careful and intelligent analysis of the facts that I have been able to gather; and of the experience that I gained with the Ottawa delegation, the study that we were able to make of the British North America Act and of the federal system of government in general.... I have come to the conclusion that this country's future should be tied up to the great country to the west of us.... I feel certain that I am right, and I have a reason to say it, that this country's future is definitely tied up within the federal system of government that we have so close to us.... Long before this Convention started, in the days of Commission of Government — I believe with all my heart that we've seen the best days of government in this country under the Commission of Government, they've done some very, very fine things, but I've always thought that it is not the form of government that we should continue to have. While we were under the Commission and before the National Convention was thought of, I was thinking that when the time came to think of getting back to a more democratic form of government, that at least we should give this federal system an opportunity to be surveyed. When the National Convention was announced and it came to my notice, I thought that this was a splendid opportunity to do that.... I have made the study, and as I say, as faithfully

and as carefully as I can, and I have come to the conclusion that my thoughts along that line have many things to justify them. Our destiny, our future, if we are to have anything better than we have had in the past, is definitely tied up with a federal system of government.

I'm encouraged by the fact that some of my friends within the city and around this country, men and women who could not be said to be biased in any way, who are detached from politics and business life, whose minds have been trained to think things through objectively, many of them think the same as I do. My mind is made up. It has been made up for a few months now, since I have been able to study it with the Ottawa delegation. I will admit that it is not made up in such a way, closed in such a way that it is incapable of being changed.... If anyone can show me why we should not go into federal union with Canada, and if anyone can show me that this country will be worse off, that our people will suffer more under confederation, I am perfectly willing to change my mind and to work just as hard for that form of government which will give our people the very best that they deserve. Having made up my mind and done it as seriously as I can, with as much thought as I am capable of, I think I am in a position to advise the delegates here, and through them the country in general, to give this type of government a careful consideration.

We have done it here as carefully as we can. We've all been serious about it. There have been some arguments against it, but I have not been swayed to the point that I am able to make a change in the position that I have taken. There have been some arguments that have had something to justify them. But they can be refuted.... Some of the arguments, and I don't say it unkindly, have tended to drive me into confederation, even if I didn't feel that I could support it intelligently. But that's by the way.... The issue is soon going to be put into the hands of the people, and I would say to my fellow delegates that we ought to see to it, whatever our opinions are, that the people get the opportunity to express themselves on this matter. And not only that, but we ought to see to it that they get the opportunity to express themselves on other forms of government as well. They are the final judges and they have a right to have the final say. Perhaps never before have they had, or will they have such a fair opportunity to