

union was, however, not found at that time. In a historical sense, the discussions we are entering upon today are a continuation of those which began over eighty years ago.

You, gentlemen, have come as a delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland, to consider and discuss with representatives of the Canadian Government whether, from Newfoundland's point of view, there is a fair and generally acceptable basis for federal union with Canada. We are naturally equally concerned that any basis of union should be of mutual advantage. At a later stage, the Convention, I understand, is to make recommendations to the United Kingdom Government as to possible forms of future government to be put before the people of Newfoundland in a referendum.

We have been told that, during the past few months, the Convention has made exhaustive inquiries into the economic and financial conditions of Newfoundland, its needs and future prospects. You are, therefore, especially qualified to examine the question of federal union with Canada from the Newfoundland point of view. Moreover, as