

the various armed forces of Canada — it being a well-known fact that the people of French Canada were not enthusiastic to take part in any wars that did not involve their homeland directly. Mind you, there were several outstanding French Canadian regiments, but it is generally speaking I am talking about. The same thing applied to the First World War. This corrupt legislation has cost the Canadian nation and the Canadian taxpayers over \$200 million annually. The same immoral legislation is now being held out as a bait to the people of Newfoundland to induce them to join the federal union; but I would like to point out that there is no definite indication that this particular legislation will be continued. As a matter of fact, there are thousands of Canadian citizens throughout the entire Dominion of Canada who are advocating its repeal. And in view of the fact that Canada is today in a difficult financial position, having to impose further taxation on its already over-taxed people, it is not unlikely that this legislation will be stricken from the statutes within a very short period.

Mr. Smallwood Nonsense.

Mr. Cashin It is not nonsense. If that is all you have to offer, it ought to be thrown out through the window. Go into the Province of Ontario and see what you will find. Everyone who knows anything about the legislation, knows they are only doing it for political purposes. Prime Minister King had to do that, otherwise he would have had to resign. And incidentally, he was defeated in his own constituency of Prince Albert.

This particular feature of the proposals for the union of Newfoundland with Canada is being stressed with every effort by the advocates of confederation. They feel that it is the one bright spot in their annexation platform. They realise that the other terms of union have no basic or solid foundation, and at every opportunity that is afforded them, they try to drill into the minds of our people that once they become a province of Canada all our difficulties will be ended, and the Newfoundland people will at last have entered into a land of milk and honey. They conveniently forget that the taxpayers of the country will be compelled to find these fictitious monies through either direct or indirect taxation. One would imagine to hear some of these people talk, that money is growing on trees. They deliberately try to avoid discussing the present average tax of

Canada as compared with the average tax of Newfoundland, which as I have already said, is favourable to Newfoundland in the amount of \$110 per head for every man, woman and child in the country. Let me repeat and further emphasise the fact that union with Canada means extra taxation on our people of an additional \$35 million annually.

Now let us make a brief review of the Old Age Pension Act as it exists and functions in Canada. A man or woman, to become eligible for this stipend, must be practically a pauper, and then before he or she receives this \$30 per month allowance, he or she must assign to the federal government any property or assets they may have; which in the event of death is taken over by the Canadian government and sold in order to repay the federal treasury the amount so paid.

Mr. Smallwood No.

Mr. Cashin You will have plenty of opportunity to reply to me later. We can get the act. The people of Canada are raising Cain over the means test. It is wrong to give a man an old age pension if when he dies the government takes his estate, unless he violates a law and has it made over to his successor some years before. It is an inducement to law-breaking. In our Economic Report we outlined a plan whereby we would be in a position to supplement our present old age pensions scheme to bring the stipend up to \$25 per month. But never in the history of our country, since the old age pension was first instituted some 40 years ago, has the pensioner been compelled to assign or mortgage his properties or assets to the government in order to become eligible for this pension.

Also, with respect to the unemployment insurance scheme now in force in Canada, it is proper that our people should know that those affected or those eligible for recompense under this particular plan, in the event of union with Canada, would not be our primary producers. It does not affect our fishermen, our loggers, our miners, our farmers, our longshoremen or others of the labouring class, and consequently would be of little help to the employed of Newfoundland.

If we refer now to the probable expenditures under Annex IV, we find that the sum of \$9.4 million is set down to be spent by the federal government annually in what they term "Other