

in Canada. They know what conditions are like in Canada, and their greatest hope is that some day conditions on the coast and in their country will become as good as they know them to be in Canada, and as they know them to be, sir, from close personal experience.

We often hear talk in this country about the Maritime Provinces. We often hear it said that the Maritime Provinces are down and out, poor, up against it, and opposed to confederation. Our people on the coast get a great laugh out of that kind of talk. It is a great joke to them, for they are extremely familiar with the Maritime Provinces of Canada. I have been told that the people down in the Straits, in fact on both sides of the Straits, are something like ourselves on the southwest coast. Like us they know Canada too, not perhaps the same part of Canada that we know so well, but a more northerly part. They travel back and forth across the Straits to that part of Canada which is just across the border, and they know the people well, and know what living conditions are like, and what prices are, and how much better these people live and get along than they do themselves. And it is a very interesting fact that the people of Labrador and in the Straits of Belle Isle are such strong confederates. As Mr. Burry has told us, I understand that the entire population of Labrador and northern Newfoundland are practically unanimously for confederation, and are waiting longingly for the day to come to vote for confederation.

It is a cant word in all the district, Mr. Chairman, that the Newfoundland people who know Canada best are the strongest confederates. That gives you something to think about. Those people down north and our people along the coast do not look upon Canadians as strangers. They do not look upon Canada as a strange country that is trying to gobble us up. They do not look upon the people of Canada as a people who are taxed to death. They know the difference. Of all the people on the southwest coast who favour confederation our fishermen are the strongest. The merchants too favour confederation. Fishermen and merchants are alike in that, but it is the fishermen who are the strongest of all for it. That is because they know how the fishermen live in Canada. Our fishermen for many years fished with the Canadian fishermen. They have been going up there since long before I was born, in

fact fishing alongside the Canadian fishermen in the same vessels and the same dories. Better than anyone in Newfoundland our southwest coast fishermen know how the Canadian fishermen live, and that is what makes our fishermen such strong confederates. If all the fishermen of Newfoundland could spend one season fishing with Canadian fishermen on Canadian vessels, no power on earth could hold these men back from fighting for confederation.

Their greatest worry on that coast today is that confederation might lose in the referendum. I will tell you why. They have been in the habit for many years of going up to Canada to work, but Canada has been tightening up her immigration regulations lately, and what many of our people are afraid of is that if confederation is turned down that avenue of employment may be closed against them. It would be a very bad blow to our coast, if that did happen. No matter what we talk in this Convention, every man of us knows very well that hard times are going to come again to this country. They are bound to come, and what our people fear is that when hard times come again they might find themselves bottled up in Newfoundland, unable to travel freely to Canada to earn the dollar that they can't earn in their own country. Many millions of Canadian dollars have been earned in this way in the past, and the day is coming when we will need the chance to earn those Canadian dollars again. But I would not have you think that I am advocating confederation only because the southwest coast is so strongly in favour of it. I am advocating confederation because it would be good for the whole country, and for all our toilers wherever they may live, north, south, east or west. All our people may not want to have Canada's door open to them to seek work, when they can't find it at home, but it is not only the chance to work in Canada that makes confederation good for Newfoundland.

At the present time, if we want the advantages of confederation we have to go to Canada to get them. We have to work and live in Canada to get them, but if Newfoundland joins up with Canada most of those advantages will be brought right into Newfoundland itself. Our cost of living will come down, and although it may not come down quite as low as in Canada, yet it will come down a lot. Free trade with Canada will see to that, for it is plain common sense that when we take off