

them, and a small trickle of money from the old country. The mother country would share her poverty with us. That is what Commission of government would mean in future, if we Newfoundlanders decide to take up the old country's gallant offer to us.

Now, our people must have a free hand in this matter. If they want to vote to go on under Commission government, they must have the right to do it — after all, it is their country, it is not ours. But if they vote for Commission government, they deserve to know what they will be voting for. I believe that in voting to go on under Commission government, our people would be voting for financial help from Britain that just would not be forthcoming. They would be voting for a shadow.

Finally, I want to say a word of congratulation to Major Cashin on his speech yesterday. I have no doubt that he fought in London, along with the other delegates, to get all he could for Newfoundland; but I also know that in his heart it must have been very little he expected from a country that is up against what Britain is up against today. I do not expect that he or the delegates can be disappointed. If I wanted to be nasty, I could take up his speech and criticise it, but I want Major Cashin to back me up. I want to make him my minister of finance. He has been fighting for responsible government, and I believe he is as sincere in that as I may be in fighting for confederation if we get good terms. If I wanted to make him angry, I would say what Sir Edward Morris said (standing about where I am standing now) to Sir William Coaker. He said (pointing his finger at Sir William), "I will get you when I want you." I will not say that, because I am sure of one thing; if the day ever comes when Major Cashin makes up his mind that there is a better chance to get rid of Commission of Government by going into confederation, I believe he will be a confederate from that day.

Yesterday Major Cashin gave us some news. He told us that he brought back from London the firm opinion that the British government would be pleased if Newfoundland did throw in her lot with the Dominion of Canada. I do not know if Lord Addison or the prime minister told him that, but he told us, and I hope he is right. Major Cashin, like myself, is an old-timer; he has been gauging public opinion for a long time. If the

people of Newfoundland thought that the British government would like us to link up with Canada, that will make more confederates in Newfoundland than Joe Smallwood could make if I am talking for a year. There is another bit of news. He said that up in Ottawa they are pleased that this delegation is going up there; they are delighted; they are not writing back and demanding to know this, that, and the other thing; they said, "Come on up", with their heart in their hand. He said the joy bells will ring. I hope they are glad, because if the joy bells ring out in Ottawa, it means they really want Newfoundland; and that means they will give us better terms than I am hoping for now, and I will get out fighting for confederation and a better Newfoundland.

Mr. Crosbie I agree with Mr. Smallwood when he said that some members of the delegation were not disappointed. I know I was not disappointed with the information we got. I was very pleased we got the information from the Dominions Office that the people themselves would have the right to decide what form of government we would have in this country.

We ought to remember the plight of the British people is a very serious one. No one could go to England, meet the people and see what they have to put up with in the way of shortages, without realising how high a price they paid for victory, and are still paying. On top of that, they have had a good deal of bad luck. Everything seemed to come together and it is astonishing to see how cheerful they are in the face of all their trouble, and how sure they are of coming back to prosperity.

I have heard it said we went to England to ask for help. That was never in my mind, and I am sure it was never in the mind of any of my colleagues on the delegation. We did not want help, and sought for nothing except what we felt Newfoundland was entitled to, and what was fair. We did want information, and we thought we were entitled to discuss and ask for trade agreements with England.... On the financial side, all we wanted was the right to suggest that the money on interest-free loan in England should be used to reduce our debt. That would have saved us about \$400,000 a year in interest and sinking fund at no cost to Britain. In fact, since she guarantees the debt, it would be helpful to her to have a good slice of it paid off by our cancellation of a dollar