

better informed, certainly better informed, about one great part of Newfoundland, namely Labrador, than any man who ever sat in this chamber. Mr. Ballam is a veteran of World War I. He's a major of the CLB.¹ He's a businessman. He has had a long and honourable record as a trade union leader. He was the second president of the Newfoundland Federation of Labour. He has represented Newfoundland at several international trade union conventions in Canada and the United States. His own international union selected him to represent Newfoundland on a tour of the principal paper mills of Europe just before the late war broke out, and he travelled widely on that continent. Would it make Mr. Ballam a better man than he is just to make him a member of a cabinet? Mr. Crummey is a businessman, a former teacher and a former inspector of schools. He is just as good a man now as he would be merely by entering a government. Well, there you have the Ottawa delegation and in intelligence, ability, integrity, that Ottawa delegation would be the equal of any delegation that a government would send up there. They were absolutely as competent to ascertain the terms of union as any cabinet committee or delegation. There's nothing very special about a cabinet or a government. Men do not become smarter or abler or more intelligent just by entering a government. And what real difference would it have been made in our talks with the Canadian government if we had had some of the government officials along with us? We have some able men in our civil service. But all they would have been able to do, if they had gone with us, was to supply information to the Canadian government. Well, we supplied them with all they needed. Is it suggested that the permanent officials would have been better able to understand and assess these terms than we are? If the officials were not needed for the purpose of giving information to the Canadian government, and if they are no better fitted to understand and explain these terms than we are ourselves, what purpose would there have been in taking them along, or what did we lose by not having them? There were seven of us on the Ottawa delegation. If we had an elected government, and that government sent a delegation to Ottawa, then that government delegation would not have numbered more than seven. And I have never known

a government in Newfoundland that could have produced a seven-man delegation possessing a higher average of intelligence, ability, integrity and knowledge of Newfoundland than our Ottawa delegation. Now, let Mr. Higgins write himself down all he likes. Let him dismiss himself, if he desires, as being less intelligent or knowledgeable than a cabinet minister or a civil servant. But let him not underestimate the abilities of his colleagues on the Ottawa delegation, and I'm sure he doesn't. They not only did a good job, as he himself has told us, but they did as good a job as any cabinet or elected government could do any day. We got the very best terms that the Government of Canada can offer. No Canadian government could possibly offer Newfoundland better terms, not even if an elected government fought for it. It may be smart tactics to say as Mr. Higgins has said, "Yes, the terms appear to be fair, but an elected government would get better terms." That may be smart tactics, it may even be smart politics, but it has this serious point against it. It just is not true.

And then I find that Mr. Higgins said that it's often used as an argument against responsible government, where do you get the men? Where do you get the men to run the country? But I think that Mr. Higgins was merely putting up a man of straw to knock him down. Nobody that I ever met has used that argument. I know that we're told that the argument is used, but nobody ever tells us who uses it. Newfoundland has the men all right. She has the men to run Newfoundland and she has men who could run Canada herself. It's not any lack of men that's in the way. It's a lack of means. That's what Newfoundland lacks — not men, but the means to do the things that those men would like to do.

And now I turn to Mr. Harrington. I have already privately complimented Mr. Harrington on his speech. To me it was the best speech that he has delivered in this chamber.... I don't agree with all of it, I don't need to do that, but I can still think it was a fine speech. I don't know if Mr. Harrington was aware of the fact, but at one point in his remarks he put his finger right on the nub of this whole question.... He said this: the Grey Book only represents the application to Newfoundland of the regular features of confederation. That's absolutely true. These proposals or

¹Church Lads' Brigade.