

Prince Albert. I would like the Ottawa delegation to have a look at that and then come back to criticise our own. Then if we take the whole Canadian railway system, we find that the roadbeds from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been overtaxed, particularly during the period of World War Two, and like our own Newfoundland Railway which is now being re-equipped, the Canadian systems require hundreds of millions of dollars capital expenditures in order to put the roadbeds and rolling stock in proper shape. Again, I say, it would be interesting to know also, what the deficits of the Canadian National Railways have been since 1919, what capital expenditures have been incurred on them, and then compare these deficits and capital expenditures on a per capita basis with similar ones on our own Newfoundland railway system. I venture the offhand opinion that our own Railway, with its various subsidiaries, has been operated on a more economic basis than those of the Canadian National system.

These are matters on which the Ottawa delegation should have been informed during their three months' stay at Ottawa. But it appears to me that instead of this delegation meeting the representatives of the Canadian government on equal, if not superior grounds, that they approached the Canadians in a more or less subservient manner. It would appear from information dragged from Mr. Smallwood during the course of this long and somewhat tiring debate, that the Newfoundland delegation to Ottawa went there not as representatives of a proud and independent people, but rather did they talk as a delegation from a bankrupt country and a pauperised people. **Mr. Smallwood** No, we did not.

Mr. Cashin You did not ask them anything about their own affairs. You tell us nothing about the CNR. I want to know what is behind their money. Before we go into partnership, we have to know what is the standing of the Bank of Canada at the present time.

With respect to this railway situation, the point which concerns our people is, that should we go into confederation we will have to shoulder our share of the losses incurred by the Canadian National system. How much greater this will be than our own, no one can tell us, not even Mr. Smallwood. You will not find Mr. Smallwood telling us anything about such drawbacks. Are

these important particulars contained in either of the Black Books or the Grey Book? Not at all! Mr. Smallwood has everything painted a rosy pink. He apparently ran out of all his black paint when he was trying to smear up our Economic Report and our Financial Report.

There is mention made of the Newfoundland Airport which was bought by us from the Canadian government at a cost of \$1 million. We are, it seems, supposed to throw this into the Canadian jackpot as a present to Canada. Here again is a case of our being deprived of a possible source of future income. This airport is valuable, not alone because of its commercial possibilities, but even more so because of its strategic position. And it is my firm conviction that, properly operated and properly managed, it could be a source of permanent national worth.

Again, this precious Grey Book tells us that, under confederation, we will have to set aside one third of our accumulated surplus, which would amount to roughly \$10 million, in trust with the Government of Canada — to be used only, so the orders run, only for expenditure on current account of the Province of Newfoundland. The rest, we are told, we can use in the development of our local resources. But there is a string to this. We must not, and we will not be allowed to use our own money to subsidise our own sources of production if they compete with similar Canadian products. In other words, Prime Minister King says we will not be allowed to assist with our own money our fisheries, our forests or such other Newfoundland industries. This we are told we must agree with before we are granted the priceless privilege of being allowed to call ourselves Canadians. Is not this, I ask you, an example of unmitigated gall? For 14 years the agents of the British government have been doing what they like with our treasury, and now the Canadian government proposes to step in and do the same thing. In short, we are asked to exchange one form of dictatorship for another. Miss Newfoundland seems to be in a position of a wealthy heiress these days, who is being wooed, and the matrimony business seems to be a matter of money. Let us look a little closer at John Canuck's proposals: let us see if he can keep Miss Newfoundland in the style to which she is accustomed! Let us see what we can find out about his financial standing.