

which I direct your attention, is put only with the consent of the Chairman. I know you were only trying to assist me, but as the floor is now occupied by Mr. Cranford, I will defer putting the motion.

**Mr. Cranford** Mr. Chairman, for five weeks the proposals for confederation with the Dominion of Canada was debated in this chamber, and I wonder if the people of this country understand those proposals any better than they did when we began. There is one thing that I am sure of, and that is our people do not know how they are going to be taxed in order to finance a province if we decided to become a province of Canada. That is one thing I am sure of, as I have taken a very keen interest in this matter, and as yet I do not know, and the fact is it has not been outlined to us and it cannot be expected for any person outside of this chamber to know.

It has been said in Canada that we are a touchy and suspicious people, of which I plead guilty, in view of the goings-on in our political life. If we were not touchy and suspicious, it would be very little interest we would have in the support of our families.

Mr. Chairman, much has been said about direct and indirect taxes. Now let us consider for one moment which of the two is best for a fisherman. If the tax is direct, fishermen will have a yearly amount to pay, good voyage or bad voyage — that direct tax must be paid or charged against him. If the tax is indirect, it is the same as we are used to. The years of a good voyage we spend all our money on all necessities of life to replace the badly worn, and to buy extras that we were not able to buy when we have a bad voyage. In the years of a bad voyage we curtail our spending wherever possible and we mend and re-mend our clothing and make other things do us for that year, in order to try and balance our budget; and believe me, in years of bad voyages we do not pay much in the form of customs duty, when we consider the principal part of a fisherman's food is on the free list. Therefore Mr. Chairman, indirect taxes are better for a fisherman; because how is a fisherman going to pay a direct tax in a year of a bad voyage or even an average voyage, when he can just square his family account and try and find something to do in order to try and carry him through to the next season?

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you can imagine

how odd it sounds to me when a person asks the question about the political feeling in any district, when they ask how do the people take the confederation issue? To me, sir, this question sounds out of place, inasmuch as I am sure there is not a person in Newfoundland today who knows what confederation with Canada would mean to Newfoundland. On one hand we are offered family allowances and so on. On the other hand, we are asked to give our God-given rights together with an assurance that we will not use our surplus that will foster our industries that will be in competition with Canadian industries. Now, sir, that means we are asked to allow Canada monopolies that would be against us. The word "monopolies" stinks in my nostrils. I am a man that is against monopolies — we have had a few to contend with, and because we have had a few, will I for spite give the whole of our trade to another country to be monopolised? Sir, in view of this how can any person decide on confederation with Canada? I think, sir, the advocates of confederation should be held responsible for all the promises made, as I feel sure they are made to be broken.

Mr. Chairman, you may consider what I have just said to be in the nature of a joke, but I was never more serious in my life, as I consider this confederation issue of grave concern to all of us, since in the past we have been made into a political football without any consideration for the welfare of the people. It is time for us to hold someone responsible for their doings. As we all realise, all the changes that have taken place in our political life have been done by a few and not by the majority of the people, and I say it is high time we call a halt.

Mr. Chairman, I am not one of those who can be deluded by any flowery offer or promise of any person, and I would like to call the attention of this house and the country in general to the words of Mr. Smallwood when he polished off his address on Wednesday, January 14, when he said that \$16 million would be given by Canada yearly to the province of Newfoundland if we should become such, and the Government of Canada regards that amount as mere chicken feed. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe one word of that statement, not one word. And the fact is, that statement has caused me to take all that Mr. Smallwood has said on this matter with