

draw your attention in this respect to the remarks made by him in speaking to the resolution we recently adopted. "They" (meaning the people) "are heartsick at seeing our governments feeding the fat sow. Truly, this is a country of which it can be said 'To him that hath shall be added, and from him that hath not, shall be taken away, even the little that he hath'." Then he said:

I am of the people and for the people of the working class, to the last drop of blood in my veins, the last ounce of flesh on my body. I come from the working class. I belong to them. My brothers toil for a living. I share their feelings and the feelings of the toilers of this country. They have never gotten a square show and a deliberate attempt has been made to stack up the powers of government and the powers of taxation against them, so as to keep them down. I share that belief. I have no shame in saying it. There is nothing aristocratic about me. There is not a single ounce of blue blood in me.

Mr. Chairman, I work for a living, you do also. All of us here do. We were sent here for a specific purpose, to endeavour to assist the people of this country in making up their minds as to what type of government they wanted. Not to inflame them; not to set class against class. I feel that I work as hard for a living as any of my countrymen. In a different way, I will admit, but still I feel, just as hard. I may not be a producer, but a necessary evil. I earn my money, and it is clean money. I resent this type of inflammatory talk. It is unnecessary and not part of our job to indulge in propaganda of any kind, and certainly not of this kind. If confederation means this manner of thinking being introduced into Newfoundland, I want no part of it — now, or any other time.

I agree that the rights of labour should be recognised. I agree that the producers in the country should be recognised. I agree that labour must be represented in any government of the future, and represented in a manner that will protect fully the rights of labour. But, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, expressions such as I have drawn your attention to, are doing a disservice to labour. In Newfoundland, to my knowledge, relations between capital and labour have been happy. None of us in Newfoundland are bluebloods. Some must necessarily be masters and some employees, but I say without fear of

contradiction that no country in the world has as happy a relationship in this respect as we have here. If Mr. Smallwood's form of oratory is considered to be in the best interests of Newfoundland and of the representatives of labour in Newfoundland, then, Mr. Chairman, I just cannot be thinking straight.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that an article in a local newspaper, of which you, Mr. Chairman, are legal adviser, is very pertinent. It is the paper dated January 25, Sunday last, and is an article written by a Newfoundlander — Mr. F. Reardon of 1988 Notre Dame St. West, Montreal. Mr. Reardon stated that he had been persuaded by a friend to attend a meeting of the local union which had headquarters in Montreal. The meeting was actually a dinner for one of the union leaders. The hall was decorated with pictures of Lenin and Stalin. In the course of the speech by this union leader, he stated that labour in Newfoundland was ripe for the sowing of communism and that of the 43,000 workers in the country, 4,000 were already organized for communism. The speaker stressed the importance of helping to make confederation a reality.

In referring to a statement I made during the debate on this matter in committee of the whole, Mr. Smallwood quoted me as saying, "Here is Newfoundland sitting with a pat hand." What I meant to infer, of course, was that Newfoundland, for all the reasons I had enumerated, her strategic position and her mineral wealth, was in an excellent bargaining position. As an answer to this Mr. Smallwood said, "I wonder if Mr. Higgins is aware of the fact that we have nearly 1,200 veterans of the late war out of jobs right here in St. John's tonight? I wonder if he is aware that we have thousands on the dole in Newfoundland at this moment?" I am by no means unsympathetic in this unfortunate situation, but in justice to our country I would like to point out the following with respect to unemployment here and in Canada. I have taken the Newfoundland figures from the *Evening Telegram*. It was stated in one of their issues of last week that 8,076 persons who were able to work but could not secure employment received assistance for the year. These were figures released by the Department of Public Health and Welfare — 8,706 people for the 12 months ending in December. The latest figure of registered unemployment