

Newfoundland

of a law with any of the enacting provisions in the preamble? Moreover, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) knows very well that the Statute of Westminster is valueless, and that it changed nothing in the British **North America Act**. Therefore I do not know what I shall do about the motion of the leader of the opposition, because his presentation of it was too nebulous. I am against the entry of Newfoundland into confederation at the present time at least. Why should we be in such a hurry? We should take our time. We should see if Lord Jowitt was right or wrong. The Canadian people may blame all members of parliament because they accepted certain conventions blindly. In those circumstances, and owing to the fact that Lord Jowitt has revealed to the House of Lords that it is a bad bargain for Canada, I do not see how we can be bound by such a convention. There is something else that you must note also. Some of the representatives of Newfoundland who came here were the very commissioners appointed by the British government. One of the British cabinet ministers has spoken very clearly in the House of Lords, when he said that they were glad to get rid of Newfoundland. I find that insulting to Newfoundland, but it is a good thing that we know what the situation is.

Every time that all parties of the house are unanimous about something I become suspicious. During the war I was suspicious about conscription. I was suspicious about the so-called gifts we made, and I am suspicious now about this bargain. I warn you, Mr. Speaker, and I warn my hon. colleagues, to take their time. There is no reason for them to swallow Newfoundland in one gulp. Take your time and think about it. Let us wait until we see the *Hansard* of the House of Lords with the context of the remarks of Lord Jowitt. That is a most important thing to do. We hold a position of trust, and the people of Canada have the right to ask of each one of us, "what is the matter about Newfoundland?"

What are the boundaries between Newfoundland as it is now and Canada? Have they been surveyed? We are told Labrador is a rich country. What are the delimitations of Newfoundland at the present time? That is a question which has not been discussed at all. We have no map of Newfoundland; we only have a script. I want a map; I want to know where Canada ends now, and what will constitute Newfoundland when Newfoundland enters confederation, if she does. I have nothing more to add other than to say that I think Lord Jowitt has rendered a tremendous service to Canada by warning us against haste.

Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Leithbridge): Mr. Speaker, there has appeared recently during the debate a noticeable tendency to quote the speeches of Colonel George Drew made in 1937, when he was without experience, against the speeches of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) of 1949, after twelve years of experience, much of it gained as premier of Ontario in the administration of the affairs of that province. A man of ordinary intelligence and the honesty to face facts can learn a lot in twelve years. I judge from the way the leader of the opposition deports himself in this house that he is a man of ordinary intelligence, and that he has the honesty to face facts. Let us not be surprised then if the language which he uses today concerning dominion-provincial relations is quite different from the language which he used when he was without experience twelve years ago. Let the members of the present party in power take over the administration of one of the provinces of this dominion, and face realities as they are in Canada and as they have been during the last ten years. They will be different men entirely from the men they are now. They will have made a good many important discoveries that everyone in Canada ought to make concerning the responsibilities which rest upon the provinces, and the financial difficulties which the provinces experience in endeavouring to discharge them.

In supporting the Conservative amendment Social Crediters are not supporting the Conservatives.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Blackmore: I am making my statement, and hon. members should take it as I am making it. Social Crediters are supporting the principles of provincial responsibility, decentralization of power, and genuine democracy and freedom. We began to support them before the election of 1935 which swept Premier Aberhart into power in Alberta, and those principles have been supported consistently in every public utterance of every Social Credit leader since that time. By this amendment the Conservatives have merely swung into line with the Social Credit contention throughout the years. When the present leader of the opposition made his remarks in 1937 he was opposing Alberta. I doubt very much that the present leader of the opposition, with the experience he now has, would oppose the policies that Premier Aberhart was following in 1937. He has found how necessary they were.

By its vote, parliament has declared itself to be in favour of Newfoundland's entry into the Dominion of Canada as the tenth province. The vote had no reference whatsoever to the