

cally our total revenue according to Finance Committee, \$400 million in the last 50 years.

Mr. Cashin Suppose they cut it out in two years' time.

Mr. Ashbourne If they cut it out then the taxes will be less, and our people will benefit that way. But there's no evidence that family allowances will be cut out.

Mr. Smallwood Family allowances, cut them out? Why, the government that tried would cut its own throat from ear to ear. They're not going to do it with their eyes open.

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, if we go into confederation we shall be transferring certain powers to Canada, but we shall be reserving others to ourselves. There can be no fear of our losing the Labrador. The responsible government of Newfoundland one time offered to sell the Labrador, twice. I hope they don't try it again.... We want the tremendous wealth of Labrador, but we in Newfoundland haven't got the capital ourselves to develop it.

Mr. Cashin Neither has Canada.

Mr. Ashbourne Canada and the States can help to develop the Labrador. That's what I maintain.... And I believe that were we to join up with Canada and become a province more Canadian money would be forthcoming to help develop Labrador. There can be no doubt at all of our ownership of Labrador.

I would like to refer briefly to the benefits which war veterans would receive. I've already enumerated them. The great benefit is the war veterans' allowance, by which a qualified veteran when he attains the age of 60 may get an allowance for himself and for his wife, and for the widow of a war veteran at the age of 55. If he is incapacitated and unable to earn before he reaches the age of 60, he may be able to get something then. This is a great thing for the war veterans of Newfoundland.... We know that the benefits extended to veterans by Canada were extra good. Provision was given for fishermen on provincial lands, whereby they would get a grant, which they didn't have to repay, of \$2,320. We in Newfoundland allowed them \$700.

We're told that within eight years ... we'll have a royal commission to assess the whole picture of Newfoundland. It seems to me that Canada might have made a mistake in the premature withdrawal of price controls. We know that

when controls and rationing are removed, there generally follows inflationary pressure. Rapid spending sometimes is the result when controls come off. The shortage of American dollars does not mean that Canada is financially or fundamentally weak. We recognise that the trend of the times is for greater union. Look at the British West Indies at the present time, see how they are beginning to confederate, how they are joining up and seeing how they can pool their resources and work together. We in Newfoundland have no control over export markets. Years ago, and in the depression, our exports dropped from about \$39 million to \$23 million, and our fish exports dropped from \$15 million to \$6 million. Some people wonder when this economic recession may start again. The ebb and flow of trade is after all — trade is a two-way street so to speak. It's a one-way street going backwards with traffic going and coming on it. And we know that over in Europe they want our fish and they must naturally be able to give us something that we can use to convert into the means of buying what we require. This was amply provided this fall when the difficulty of sterling exchange became most acute. Fortunately, we had the money on the other side and the Commission negotiated and the result has been a great thing for our fishermen. We have other years ahead to look forward to, and we have to realise that in this matter of trade we are, so to speak, one world. We are dependent one upon the other. This was amply exemplified this year when it was explained that our sale of fish in Spain depends upon the United Kingdom taking Spanish oranges. For awhile the sales were held up ... but finally, when Great Britain bought these oranges from Spain, it gave the Spanish some sterling in order to buy our fish. While we are dependent upon these markets in Europe and elsewhere, we realise what a great economic question is before us. We realise how these economic forces ... work, and that they, when not properly controlled, are the means of starting depressions. We are benefitting from the result of war prices. The inflated prices of the war are still in effect, they've not yet subsided. Peoples of the world are trying to settle down in a changing world, and we know that after the last war a sharp collapse in prices resulted in many failures. Export prices for fish were cut in half between 1920 and 1923.... Relief was required in quite a few