

ing an audience in a hall just a little while ago. He was an anticonfederate, and seeing a crowd before him, he could not resist the temptation to put over a cute piece of anticonfederate propaganda. He said, "Do you see that? That will be taxed under confederation. Do you see this and that? Everything will be taxed under confederation." He thought he was going to bluff these people, but there happened to be some men there who had lived and worked in Canada, and they were able to stand up and show up his lies. The anticonfederates think they have a trump card in this property tax, but they are not going to get away with it. We have too many people here today who have lived and worked in Canada, and too many who have relatives living and working in Canada for that bluff to be put over.

Under confederation we will have two governments over us — the federal government of Canada and the provincial government of Newfoundland. The federal government of Canada never yet collected any property tax whatsoever. They never did and never will. The provincial government of course will be our own government. We will elect it, and they will sit here in this very chamber. They will never pass a law to collect property taxes from our people — never, never, never, and if they ever become so foolish, if they ever become so foolish as to do it, why we will simply turn them out at the next election. It is as simple as that. No government in Newfoundland would stand a week if they ever tried to put property taxes on us. So the federal government will collect no property taxes from us, and the provincial government will collect none from us. Who is left? The town council if left. If a town council exists in a settlement, no doubt that town council will collect a few local taxes, just as most town councils are already doing in Newfoundland. But it is left to the people of every town or settlement to decide for themselves whether they will have a town council or not. If they want one, they will have one. If they do not want one they will not have it. It is in their own hands. Nobody can force them. Mr. Claude Hicks of Fredericton, in Fogo District, says for example that he has a house, a barn and two acres of land, and he wants to know what tax he will have to pay on that property under confederation. I cannot answer that question until I know if the people

of Fredericton will decide to have a town council. If the Fredericton people, including Mr. Hicks, should decide to have a town council, then perhaps the council will collect a small tax on his property — maybe a five dollar bill a year, or whatever the council decides. Maybe Mr. Hicks would be elected a member of that town council. If so he would help to decide what tax to put on his property. But if Fredericton decides not to have a town council, then there will be no tax at all on Mr. Hicks' property, for there is no one to collect a tax on it. The Government of Canada will not tax his property, the provincial government of Newfoundland will not tax it — so who is there to tax it if there is no town council in Fredericton? And remember that it is left to the people of Fredericton to decide whether they will have a town council or not — it is up to themselves. Nobody can force them to have it. And what I say about Mr. Hicks applies to every man in Fredericton; and what I say about Fredericton applies to every settlement or town in Newfoundland. But the people of Newfoundland need not worry; all this will be explained to them before the referendum is held. This is one time the anticonfederates are not going to bluff our people on this property tax question.

Mr. Higgins did me the honour the other day of quoting from the speech I made when I introduced my motion more than a year ago, my motion that the Convention should send a delegation to Canada to seek the terms of union. I was greatly interested in the part of my speech that he read out, and to tell you the truth I thought it was very good. I am surprised that I made such a good speech on that occasion. Anyway, that made me look up my speech, and there was one paragraph that struck me very much. I think it is worth repeating. Here is what I said on that occasion, and now I quote my own words exactly:

So now, Mr. Chairman, we know all the factors but one. We know that it is lawful for the Convention to send the delegation to Ottawa. We know that Ottawa will receive the delegation, and receive it cordially. We know that the opposition party will not oppose it. We know that the Canadian people will not oppose it. The only thing we still don't know is what the Newfoundland people want. We don't know whether they want confederation