

will include the territory of Labrador defined by the award of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in 1927 as Newfoundland territory." There we have a definite, clear-cut statement by the Ottawa government. Yet here we have at the same time the Quebec provincial government, representative, mind you, of approximately one-third of the population of Canada, and representing a political balance of power in the Canadian Parliament, saying that they deny this statement — that they refuse to acknowledge Newfoundland as being the legal owner of this territory, and that they are going to do everything in their power to take it from us. If the circumstances were different, my first impulse would be to ask the Commission government what this whole thing means. But I know that I would be only wasting my time, because they would not tell me. Only a few days ago, they were asked whether we could regard the agreement made between the Government of Great Britain and our own government in 1933 as being at present valid and effective, and if it were to be followed out, and they came back with the reply that in effect it was none of our business. Here we have a solemn agreement made between two governments, whereby we surrendered our sovereignty upon certain specific terms and which provided for the return of our lost political life; and we are told that we should not talk about it, that it is not within the province of us representatives of the Newfoundland people even to discuss it. Using the words of Winston Churchill, "What kind of people do they think we are?" Do they think we are so many children to be trifled with? Do they think we do not know the nature of a contract, and the sacred moral and legal obligations which it entails and which are imposed upon the parties? It seems to me that it is time we ceased to allow ourselves, or our people, to be used for the foolish purposes of this debating society. It is time that we realised that we have greater duties, greater responsibilities, greater obligations than those which have been imposed upon us by this narrow, farcical Convention and its narrower terms of reference. How can we place any dependence, any faith upon any agreement or promise made to us by any government of Canada or, for that matter any other country, when we see an attempt being made, as in this case, to tear these terms of reference to bits before

we have even finished reading them?

But the point I wish to make is this: it is impossible for us to blind our eyes to the fact that we are obviously holding discussions with a country a third of whose people openly and brazenly declare they will refuse to honour the terms now before the Chair — who openly tell the world that they are going to spare no effort to rob us of our rich Labrador territory. I ask my fellow delegates: are they prepared to consider doing business on that basis? Are they prepared to discuss terms with a people who have openly shown their unfriendliness — who declare that regardless of all laws, their purpose is to wrest from us that which is ours?

Under the circumstances, if we have respect for ourselves, if we are sincere in our desire to faithfully protect the interests of the people who sent us here, we must seriously consider the matter of throwing this confederation business out of this chamber, and to have no more parley with a people who threaten our well-being — who in effect are set on a campaign to steal away our people's wealth....

We are witnessing a spectacle which has been repeated many times in the history of small countries. It is the old story of the covetous eyes and the greedy hands of bigger and more powerful countries coveting the wealth and the assets of the smaller country. Sometimes the big fellow gets what he wants by political trickery, sometimes he gets it by threats and pressure; and failing these, he takes it by brute force. In our Labrador possession, through the goodness of Providence, we have been given a source of untold wealth, a means by which this country can obtain and hold a continued prosperity. How long, I ask you, do you think this wealth will be ours if we once found ourselves in the hands of the Canadian government? I tell you that it would be only so long as they could rig up the necessary legal machinery to euchre us out of it.

It is all too clear now that the key to this whole mystery is the desire of Canada to take from us our Labrador wealth. It explains everything — baby bonuses, old age pensions and all the rest of it. It is a cheap enough bribe.... I make the statement now, and I am convinced that time will bear me out, that this entire business — referendums, conventions and all the rest of it, has but one main object, and that is a deliberate and preconceived