

Ottawa delegation went to Ottawa hat in hand — those were his words — begging from Ottawa — those were his words — hat in hand, begging from Ottawa. Now nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is the exact opposite of what Major Cashin said. We went to Ottawa holding our heads high. We gave Newfoundland the highest kind of a name. We told Canada that Newfoundland was sitting on top of the world. In all our newspaper interviews, and there were dozens of them, we kept up Newfoundland's name. In his speech at the very opening session of our conferences in Ottawa, our Chairman Mr. Bradley said this, and I quote his exact words. He said: "Should these talks produce an understanding between us, and that understanding be endorsed by the country in the forthcoming referendum and Newfoundland becomes the tenth province of your Canadian union, you will be receiving a proud people eager and determined to pull their weight in generous measure. For make no mistake, union of Newfoundland and Canada will never take place, while our people have the decision, unless Newfoundlanders are convinced that they have a contribution to make towards the general good of the partnership in which they share.".... It was broadcast over the entire network of the Canadian Broadcasting Commission, and thousands of our own people heard it that night here in Newfoundland. As for myself, as I go back over the clippings of the interviews I gave to the Canadian newspapers, I find that I made this public statement and I quote my exact words: "Mr. Smallwood termed Labrador the richest area in the world today". Is that letting the country down? Is that putting on the poor mouth? Is that giving Newfoundland a bad name? "Mr. Smallwood termed Labrador the richest area in the world today", God forgive me, and though I may not be so far off, I don't know. But I didn't put on the poor mouth. Again I made this statement: "While we have survived for 450 years in isolation and made tremendous progress, we will never reach our maximum strength in isolation, we must be part of North America." You might take note, sir, of the words "while we have survived for 450 years in isolation and made tremendous progress". Then again I said, "Newfoundland is not bankrupt but blooming". Sir, I could go on quoting dozens of statements

like that made by me to the newspapers of Canada during our visit to that country. It may suit Major Cashin to say that we went up there running the country down or putting on the poor mouth or as beggars, but it simply isn't true. The exact opposite is the truth.

Now sir, one thing I hardly expected was that Major Cashin would trot out Premier Duplessis again, but he did. He still professes to be afraid that the Quebec fascist, I beg your pardon, the Quebec premier will somehow or other manage to rob us of our Labrador. And while Major Cashin was discussing this matter of Labrador, he gave utterance to what surely must be the strangest remark ever heard in this building since it was erected over 100 years ago, he said this, what dependence can we place on a mere decision of the Privy Council? What dependence can we place on a mere decision of the Privy Council? Was Major Cashin serious? Did he mean that question to be taken seriously? Would he, a former cabinet minister, a former minister of the Crown, would he seriously suggest to the people of this country that no dependence can be placed on a decision of the Privy Council of Great Britain? Can Major Cashin name any other court in the whole world whose verdicts and judgments merit and receive such universal respect and which are so binding as those of the Privy Council? He cannot and no man can. But he finds himself straight up against what is for his argument a very awkward fact, the fact that the Privy Council has laid down the boundaries of our Labrador. So what did he do? He makes the futile and foolish attempt to throw doubt upon the validity of that Privy Council award and makes the extremely foolish statement that no dependence can be placed upon their famous decision on the Labrador boundary. And then he makes this further statement. The only inducement, he says, for Canada wanting Newfoundland is to get Labrador's mineral wealth. In fact, he says that when he was in Montreal the other day, some businessmen he met told him so. I won't dignify that statement with a reply, for any fifth form schoolboy could tell Major Cashin that it's highly unlikely that the petty businessmen that he met in Montreal would be in the confidence of the Government of Canada. Let's look at this matter clearly and squarely. Is that why Canada wants Newfoundland, to get the minerals of Labrador?