

fortune tellers long ago. I was too often put on the wrong track. So, Mr. Chairman, I came to the conclusion that if I wanted to find out the facts of this confederation issue, I should have to forget Mr. Smallwood and have recourse to other sources, and to facts which would enable me to come to some common sense conclusions on this whole matter.

When I first came here it was in the fond hope that this gathering of Newfoundlanders could function as an impartial body of examiners of the condition and prospects of our country; that in friendliness and co-operation we would pursue our labours and within a matter of months we would be able to present a report of our deliberations to the country. But what happened? Before we could get settled down to our job at all, we had this issue of confederation shoved across the table. At that time it struck me that it seemed strange, strange indeed, for this matter to come before us, seeing that we had neither examined nor reported on the matter of our own country, or whether it would be necessary for us to consider going in with any other country. It was obvious to me then that the parties responsible for introducing this confederation issue were not concerned with what this Convention thought was best for the country, or what its final decisions might be. They apparently did not care what a survey of our accounts would show. Whether we were prosperous or insolvent did not seem to matter anything to them, because they acted without waiting for these things to be decided. In effect their actions seem to say, no matter what the findings of the Convention might be, no matter whether we wanted confederation or not, they were there for the express purpose of hanging it around our necks.... Talk about your closed minds, Mr. Chairman. Here is a case where we seem to have the mind which has never been anything else. We all know the unhappy results of this misguided action on the part of the confederates. It destroyed the efficiency of this Convention before it could get down to business. It did away with any possibility of harmony or co-operation. It set the seed of political misguidance. In a word it sabotaged this Convention, and at the same time any hope which we might have entertained of obtaining beneficial results for our people. It is quite plain now that these people have placed their political aspirations

before the interest of the country. Can we wonder then, can we be surprised at the state of things which resulted? Some outsiders are inclined to blame all of us for the unsatisfactory manner in which this Convention has conducted its sessions. But I ask, how could it be otherwise? Did they expect the delegates to allow this confederation issue to be shoved down their throats without making their judgement known? Refusing to accept the high pressure sales talk which the agents of our bartering of our country rained on them? The main reason we are here at all as a group is the desire of Newfoundlanders to live in freedom, to resolve the future in their own way. Yet before they had hardly taken their seats, we find them subject to this four-speeding Canadian pact. For myself, I can only congratulate my fellow members on their tolerance and forbearance in the face of the threat of dictatorship.

Mr. Chairman, as one who was born in this country, who is proud of the name Newfoundlander, whose lifetime has been spent in her forests and on her sea, and who loves every inch of her soil ... as such a one I find it difficult to understand the mentality and the outlook of those who call themselves Newfoundlanders, yet are working for the end that Newfoundland shall no longer be Newfoundland, who are prepared to see her and all that she stands for passed into the hands of strangers, who are ready to make those who share its blood and toil servants in the house of another, instead of being masters in their own. To me at least there seems to be something wrong about it. It seems to violate some law of happiness. It seems to be a sin against morality itself. Yet that is the spectacle which I am witnessing here day after day.

Now let me say that in spite of anything which I may have said, I am capable of viewing things fairly, and in the present instance I have tried to apply my sense of fairness to the present matter of the transfer of our sovereignty. Perhaps, I ask myself, we Newfoundlanders are a country that cannot stand alone, perhaps we are too small to survive as a country. But when the Financial Report was presented, what did I find? I found that every page in that report gave the lie to the questions I had asked. There I found undeniable figures and inescapable conclusions which proved to me beyond the shadow of a doubt that my country is not only solvent, but is one of the