

any denomination that has a school system now or at the time we become a province at the date of union, can go on having that system. They are guaranteed to have them for all time. On the other hand, if any two should wish to unite, that right is also guaranteed them by these terms that are now offered us by the Government of Canada. All the rights of everyone are fully protected in these terms. I do not know if any gentleman in the Convention desires to take advantage of this paragraph in the letter of the Prime Minister where he says, "On the other hand, with respect to those matters which are primarily of provincial concern, such as education, the Government of Canada would not wish to set down any rigid conditions, and it would be prepared to give reasonable consideration to suggestions for modification or addition." I do not know if any one feels sufficiently knowledgeable, sufficiently competent to make any suggestions on it. I would imagine the people most concerned would probably be the ones to offer any suggestions if any were to be offered. I do not know if it is a matter which we as a Convention can do very much about.

Mr. Higgins In the case of union, it would be a matter the government would have to take up — if there was any alteration.

Mr. Smallwood I am not so sure. In the referendum the clause remains as it is now; the people only know the clause that is there now in the terms. It seems to me, if they voted for confederation, the government elected after might not have the authority to change that clause. The time to change it, if it is to be changed, is before the referendum is held.

Mr. Chairman I do not know that that is altogether so. Under this arrangement, if it were to be adopted, it is made elastic and flexible; which is why the Prime Minister goes on to point out that it is not rigid and inflexible. If you want to suggest any alterations, it would naturally be done before union takes place quite irrespective of the manner by which union is effected.

Mr. Higgins We would be negotiating then, would we not?

Mr. Chairman Yes, definitely.

Mr. Smallwood We might not exactly be negotiating. If any member of this Convention or one or more people had a suggestion to make on the question, to ask that that question be for-

warded to the government of Canada for their reply — that would not be negotiating.

Mr. Chairman It is clear from the Prime Minister's letter that if you want to address any questions, or if you want any alterations considered, they are prepared to take them under advisement. It is one thing to write and ask questions, it is another thing to go back and say you want this altered. That is really negotiating. It depends upon the tenor of the communication addressed as to whether it is negotiating or merely seeking information.

Mr. Smallwood The difficulty is this National Convention is just a temporary thing elected for a certain limited period of time; when that is done we go home. Even at best, we are not all lawyers, not all professional men, in this matter we have no standing. We are not the educators of the country, nor are we the heads of denominations, we are just a crowd of ordinary fellows blundering along as best we can. I suppose this letter from the Prime Minister will have been read outside this Convention; if citizens wished to make representations on the matter, they could do so without being condemned for negotiating or anything of that character. It is not a matter we can do very much about. The offer is there, nevertheless, from the Government of Canada, that it would be prepared to give "reasonable consideration to suggestions for modification or addition". If anyone should care to make any suggestions, I do not suggest it is necessarily the job for this Convention or any member of it.

Clause 20: Defence Establishments.

Canada will provide for the maintenance in Newfoundland of appropriate reserve units of the Canadian defence forces which will include the Newfoundland Regiment.

I don't know that there is much I need to say to explain that clause. It is fairly simple.... I suppose that what would happen is that stationed in one or two or three places in Newfoundland would be units of the Canadian defence forces, and that amongst these units would be the Newfoundland Regiment. I talked about that to Mr. Brooke Claxton, the Minister of National Defence. Since he was in Australia attending the peace conference or something between the United States and Britain and Canada and Russia on the Japanese situation, it had to be by wireless that the conversation was carried on between