

I was not sent here to preach against any class of society — I leave this to a few of my decidedly pink fellow members — nor to blame any particular set for the mistakes that have been made by our predecessors. If there have been gains by individuals during the past 100 years there have also been losses, as may be verified by the change of large concerns over this period. As far as squandering is concerned, roughly \$30 million has gone from Newfoundland to Canada during the last year with negligible relative trade returns.

Mr. Chairman, it is all too plain to see that we are not now living in 1865. This year of 1948 finds the following circumstances that were not evident at that time. The largest revenue that Newfoundland has ever possessed against the meager pittances of those days. Highways and transport have progressed. Labrador has been legalised as Newfoundland territory. We have been termed the crossroads of the world so far as air traffic is concerned. We have leased bases without credit of any kind, for 99 years, which employ our labour at lower rates of pay than outsiders. Fish marketing has been revolutionised and a market exists at our back door. Hospitals and general public health organisations have become increasingly evident. Bell Island and Buchans, not to mention other mining prospects have been inaugurated. Paper and pulp manufacture has become a fact. Lastly in this very vague comparison is the fact that we have been informed on the highest authority that we are a self-supporting country.

Mr. Chairman, we are not in the late nineties. Then we had admittedly little to offer toward an equitable basis for union. Now we are in a position that is coveted by many. We should need no outside housekeeper to run a family concern whose income is sufficient to feed each and every one of us. Mr. Chairman, it is my firm conviction that two and only two types of government should be inserted on the ballot paper in the forthcoming referendum. Should any negotiations later take place between Newfoundland and any other country, let Newfoundland enter into those negotiations as free to barter as are her neighbours, for the best results, and may God guide our ship of state into kind waters, not in tow or with tugs, but under her own proud power.

Mr. Reddy Mr. Chairman, "The time has come

the Walrus said to talk of many things, Of ships and shoes and sealing wax, Like wise Mackenzie King." Once before in this chamber the walls rang with the word "union", and if we had acute hearing today, we might still hear that word "union" echoing from these walls. All you heard 25 years ago was the "union", the "union". At that time, it was the Fishermen's Union, which developed into one of the biggest and strongest political parties we ever had in this country. That Union party was founded in 1908. Its founder used the slogan, "Down with the merchants; and up with the underdogs." Needless to say, it was a very popular slogan. The union grew by leaps and bounds. Tall tales were told of what it would do for the fishermen and to its support, I am told, nearly half a million dollars was subscribed by the fishermen.

The present chief advocate for union with Canada, the member for Bonavista Centre and the proposer of this motion was, I am told, one of the most rabid promoters of that union, and by his tongue and his pen, did then, as he is doing now, much to spread that gospel over this country. And just as Mr. Smallwood is an enthusiastic and fanatic delegate to this Convention, so he was just as enthusiastic and fanatic a delegate to the old FPU convention. So enthusiastic a supporter was our Mr. Smallwood to that fishermen's union, that he wrote a book on the life of the founder of that union.¹ And if you have read it, you will find that he says, in effect, that the founder of that union was only a little less than God. Talk about idolatry! You haven't seen anything if you haven't read that book.

Well Mr. Chairman, as they say, time marches on. And what happened to *that* union that Mr. Smallwood talked and wrote and raved about, and wrung his hands over a few short years ago? Well, to make a long story short, the fishermen who put their life savings into *that* union got little or none of it back, and many died paupers as a result; all the older people know the story. And the founder of that union, who started out a poor man wearing a pair of three-quarter boots and blue guernsey, and preaching "down with the merchants", accumulated himself an estate, I am told, worth little less than half a million dollars and resided on his estate in Jamaica, which I am told by a man who visited there was worth not

¹Joseph R. Smallwood, *Coaker of Newfoundland* (London, 1927).