

many thousands amongst us who are not prepared to form their opinions on mere moral or ethical grounds. They prefer to deal with matters from a more practical standpoint. They ask for facts. Well, I think I have given them the facts.

In my opinion, Canada is today in a position where she finds she has overreached herself. She reminds me of the frog in the fable who wanted to be as big as a bull and who puffed himself up until he burst. Canada is an ambitious country and in the thirties she got the idea that she wanted to become a big nation. She put on long pants before she became of age. She wanted an army, she wanted a navy and all the trimmings. How she might have gotten on if World War II had not come along we do not know. But like other countries, the blast of war hit her, and today she is left in an exhausted position, struggling for her life, and her financial bloodstream is fast running dry. As I said, she is begging Uncle Sam for dollars and her people are on the rocky road of austerity....

I want to apologise for being so long discussing this matter. I felt that it is of such great national importance that it required extensive study, and during Christmas recess I spent practically all my time going into the Black Books and particularly the Grey Book. I felt, as a former Minister of Finance for Newfoundland, that I owed it to you people who sent me here, particularly the District of St. John's West ... because when they elected me I told them that I would not let them down, and I am not going to let them down now. I felt I had to make a complete study with no one bothering me ... in order to work out these figures which I have given, and I have come to the conclusions which I have already given to the house and the country, which I elaborated on yesterday.... I have lived in Canada and worked there from coast to coast. I like Canada, it is a great country, but after living and working there, I want to give it as an honest opinion, that if confederation were good for Newfoundland there would not be a stronger supporter of it in Newfoundland today, but I am honest in my opinion when I say that confederation will be the worst thing that ever struck Newfoundland.... Canada is in a worse position financially than Newfoundland.... We are not begging for dollars, all we are trying to do is keep people from plundering our treasury. We can sympathise with

Canada in her present plight, just as any other allies made prosperous by the war, but nevertheless we must remember that charity begins at home, and our first duty and our first obligation we owe to ourselves, our families, our children and our children's children.... Canada is well aware, as we are, that if she can take over Newfoundland she can richly benefit by our assets. For instance, if she controlled our rich Labrador possession, it would in a few years place her in a position where she could get all these American dollars which she urgently needs....

Is it not quite obvious from all the evidence available to us that Canada is definitely using her power and efforts to wrest from Newfoundland this particular part of Labrador, together with its great undeveloped waterpower? Don't let us blind ourselves with the stupid and rather naive idea that the Privy Council's judgement protects us in the possession of our Labrador territory. Don't let us get that idea in our heads, because if the agreement made by our government in 1933 with the British government can be converted into a scrap of paper, if the Atlantic Charter signed in our own Placentia Bay can become equally worthless, what dependence do you think we can place in a mere decision of the Privy Council? Let us remember that there are more ways than one of skinning a cat. Why, I myself can think of three different ways at least right now, whereby Canada can usher us out of our Labrador territory, regardless of any Privy Council, if we were to unite with Canada and become the tenth province. It is contained in this Grey Book, and it is in there for that purpose. I quoted that yesterday, that within a period of eight years a royal commission, a royal farce, like they had here in 1933, would come and find that the country is bankrupt and say, "We are going to take this", and I am convinced that, in the minds of some of our pro-confederates today is the thought that Canada will rent Labrador from us in order to bolster up that so-called budget that Mr. Smallwood brought in here.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to take up much further time, but in closing, I would wish to summarise briefly the meaning of all that I have said. As I see it, the situation is simply this: Canada wants this country and our Labrador possession, and the government of Great Britain has given her consent to this arrangement. There