

and regulations. Every union went right on with its own officers, running its own affairs. But every union joined the Federation. The Federation was a federal union of unions. There were certain matters and certain affairs that were too big for any one union to handle, and that is why the Federation was formed. Each union that linked up with the Federation held on to its own local autonomy and ran its own local affairs, but the Federation began to handle the things that were too big for any one union to run, and the Federation began to handle matters that were of common interest and concern to the individual unions.

And that's just how it is with the Canadian federal union. Each individual province goes right on handling its own purely local affairs, and the federal government takes over the management of the bigger things, such as the railway and veterans' affairs, and posts and telegraphs, and marine works and so forth. Each province elects its own government to run its own local affairs, and besides that elects so many members to the government of the whole federal union itself, that is, the federal government. No sir, confederation does not mean that Canada would take us over and run us. We would elect our own government every four or five years, and our own government would run us. At any rate, they would run us in certain things and the federal government would run us in other things.

A Nova Scotian is no less a Nova Scotian because he is also a Canadian. A Prince Edward Islander is no less a Prince Edward Islander because he is a Canadian too. And a Newfoundlander would be no less a Newfoundlander because he was also a Canadian. We are all Britishers, sir, but are we any the less Newfoundlanders because we are Britishers? I am a Newfoundlander, and proud of it; and if confederation meant that I would have to become a Canadian and at the same time cease to be a Newfoundlander, then I for one would be opposed to confederation. We will always be Newfoundlanders, and proud of it, even when we become Canadians.

As I said here once before, that is one of the big things I like about confederation, that it will bring democracy back to us again. It will bring back democratic government. It will give us a voice in our own affairs again. That is my first

big point in favour of confederation. But sir, the biggest reason of all for confederation, as I see it, is that it will link us up with a great British nation. You would never guess it from some of the foolish things said about her in this Convention, but Canada happens to be the largest and richest nation in the British Commonwealth, next to Britain herself. I repeat that, Mr. Chairman: Canada is the largest and richest nation in the whole British Commonwealth, next to Britain herself. And as Mr. Ashbourne remarked here, surely a system of government that works for 12.5 million people will work just as well for 12.75 million people.

It is only plain common sense to think that it would benefit this small country to throw in her lot with that great, wealthy British nation. We should never forget in this country that at the very time our country went broke, one of Canada's provinces went broke too. When Newfoundland went broke in the early 1930s, the Province of Saskatchewan went broke. Where did we have to turn? To the old mother country. And thank God the mother country came to our rescue, because at that time she was able to. But we had to give up our own government and come under the Commission system. Where did Saskatchewan turn? She turned to the federal government of Canada. Where else would she turn but to the government of the very union of which she was a member? She turned to the government of all Canada, and that government came to her rescue. But did she lose her own government? Did the Government of Canada take their government from them and put others over them? No, Saskatchewan held on to her own government. Democracy remained in Saskatchewan. Self-government remained. That's the difference, sir, when you are a province of Canada. You may run on hard times as a province, but you cannot go under. The government of the whole nation stands by you. And if we become a province of Canada with our own self-government, we will have a strong friend at our back in case we ever need one. That is something to think about, sir. For we must not get any foolish ideas into our heads that we will never need a friend. Everybody does. We know the kind of world we are living in. We know the uncertainties of this world, and the uncertainties of trade and finance. It is a big thing to know that you are lined up with