

trawlers except in restricted areas.¹ Nova Scotia today is rectifying this decision, but it is admitted Newfoundland has far outstripped Nova Scotia in modernisation and expansion.

We have the Fisheries Board which administers inspection and control of exports to all our great markets in Europe and the West Indies. Under this set-up, inspection is compulsory and fish cannot be shipped without an inspection certificate. If we enter confederation, this will be a federal function. Canada has no compulsory inspection, with the result that the quality of her fish has gone down during the war years, while ours has improved and we have held our market against Canadian competition. Is it likely that the federal government will permit Newfoundland as a province to control these exports which will be Canadian under confederation? The answer is no. Would a federal government allow Newfoundland to refuse to export fish to another province, say Nova Scotia, if it were found necessary in order to maintain prices in our markets to do so? Certainly they wouldn't. As you all know, Halifax used to depend on Newfoundland to supply fish for re-export. And they used this fish to compete with our own, until under the present system this was stopped to the great advantage of Newfoundland. For some years Canada, and Nova Scotia particularly, had a large share of the European market and produced as much if not more saltfish for these markets than we do. But over a period of years she lost those markets while we held them. She also lost the West Indies markets to a great extent, which at one time were exclusively Canadian and which today are ours. I wonder why these markets were lost? And I wonder if under confederation we'll find ourselves in the same position as Nova Scotia? During the last quarter of a century we have been able, with the help of England, to sell to Spain, Italy, and Greece while Canada was unable to make the same exchange agreement and consequently could not ship. High officials of the federal government have made statements that our marketing system is far ahead of Canada's. In fact, it is so far ahead that last year a Canadian delegation came here to study our system and went away amazed at the strides we had made. Is

a federal government going to permit Newfoundland as a province to exercise federal rights by permitting the Newfoundland Fisheries Board to control exports? Certainly it won't. At any rate I see nothing in all the terms presented to us, in either the Grey Book or the Black Book, indicating that she will. I for one would like assurance on this matter before I could mark my vote for confederation. It must be remembered that Canadian provinces are our keenest competitors, and under confederation we will not sell one pound of fish more to Canada than we do today. It is quite evident that our salt codfish trade will suffer practically the same fate as that of Nova Scotia and the Gaspé coast.

Our present system, and the Fisheries Board, will be demolished overnight. And if you think this is not so under confederation, all you have to do is turn to Mr. Smallwood's budget.² "Of the total expenditures of \$282,800 by the Fisheries Board, \$158,358 would be federal. Reduction of function should produce a saving of \$12,000 on Board expenditure." The cost of operating the Fisheries Board is cut from approximately \$282,000 to \$158,000, or \$125,000 roughly is deducted. And they visualise, mind you, a further saving of \$12,000 because the Board's functions are going to be reduced — not increased, or any further assistance given, but reduced. What functions of the Board do you think they intend to reduce? Perhaps members of the Fishery Committee on the delegation to Ottawa can tell us, although I understand that only one meeting was held, attended by only two members of the Newfoundland delegation. Mr. Chairman, one of our chief industries took the time of one meeting and the attention of two of our delegates, and we're expected to vote on a referendum for confederation. That committee should have had with them Mr. Raymond Gushue, who in my opinion knows more about trade agreements and what's best for our fishery than any member of the Ottawa delegation. And if this is correct, that it was only attended by two members, all I can say is that they had very little interest in their country and the most important branch of its economy. Just in case they can't tell us what functions are to be reduced, to me it is quite obvious that these

¹Canada, *Royal Commission Investigating the Fisheries of the Maritimes and the Magdalen Islands* (Ottawa, 1928).

²Volume II:522.