

hand and discovered the foundations upon which we are to build in the future. I am satisfied that then we can get down to work in earnest. I came here with no fixed views whatsoever, I still remain so, and, until I can see the picture of the future of the country, I will not decide in favour of any form of government. Maybe I should go as far as to say that I am voicing the sentiments of others in this assembly. It is the first time that such a gathering has come about, and this assembly will go down in history and will be remembered for what it did accomplish and what it did not accomplish in the interests of the masses of this country. At this time in the history of our country we have to consider the general welfare of the masses and not the few. The whole has to be considered and not the part. I think that is very important. Thank you.

Mr. Fudge I feel that I cannot let this opportunity slip by without making some remarks on Mr. Smallwood's statement, wherein he said that our people were 100 years behind the times.

Mr. Smallwood No, I am talking about the country, not the people.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Smallwood, address the Chair please.

Mr. Fudge I wish to say that during the past eight years I have represented at least 5,000 of the people of this country. The general labouring man in this country is not 100, or even 50 years behind the times. This is ridiculous, furthermore I will support the idea and the thought that there has been a little National Convention held outside this place by a few.

Mr. Brown I did not intend at this particular time to have anything to say in connection with the resolution introduced by my honourable friend, Mr. Smallwood. I may say to begin with, that whatever reason or whatever sympathy I would have with joining forces with Canada, Mr. Smallwood has killed it all in his address here this afternoon. I also think it is premature; we have not gotten though the business of this house — the business we were sent here to do. Only two committees have reported. There was an interim report of the Fisheries Committee, which report was referred back to them and I would say, for the information of the delegates, that the next report will be a final one and that will not be for some time yet. After all, the fishing industry is the greatest industry we have in this country and

we want to get all the available information before we present the report. As far as confederation is concerned, there is nothing wrong with sending a delegation to Canada; that could be tolerated, but Mr. Smallwood in his address says Newfoundland is so far behind the times. I have travelled perhaps as far in Canada as Mr. Smallwood — I could not go any farther in Canada than I have been — I have been through Alaska as well, and during these travels I learned much about Canada and Canadians, and I never thought our country and our people were so far in the background as Mr. Smallwood says. If that is his reason for introducing this resolution, then I do not see eye to eye with him. I am not a confederate. If I could be convinced, perhaps I would be; but, Mr. Chairman, it will take a lot of convincing before I cast a vote for confederation with Canada. Let us take the eastern provinces and ask the man on the street what he thinks of confederation; many have told us, "We are in now and we cannot get out; if we were out, we would never go in." Again he referred to health and in particular to tuberculosis; I might ask Mr. Smallwood if he has ever read a clipping in one of the Canadian newspapers in connection with the percentage of tuberculosis on the Gaspé coast. Perhaps Newfoundland can hold a candle with Canada, and Newfoundland is not as far back as 100 years behind another country, and I say Newfoundlanders are not 100 years behind other people.

Mr. Smallwood I did not say that, I said 50 years behind and in some things 100 years.

Mr. Brown Do you believe that?

Mr. Smallwood Yes.

Mr. Brown I would not believe you or anyone else. You may go down below Cape Chidley and find a few Esquimaux who are that far behind. It was that kind of talk and the publication of it that got us where we are today. Your remarks today will go all over Canada, over the world; how can we blame people or newspapers for publishing things about Newfoundland — calling us Indians and Esquimaux when we ourselves are calling ourselves Indians. I thought this resolution would come in, and 24 hours after he introduced it in the house it would be debated. I did not think there would be any speeches or addresses given on it this afternoon. But Mr. Smallwood's address, I do not mind telling you, pierces the hearts of