

or not — and we're not going to know until they vote in the referendum. All we can do is get the terms and conditions and that's all this resolution calls for. The rest can very safely be left to the people; once they know the terms, they'll know how to make up their minds all right never you fear.¹

That is what I said on that occasion, Mr. Chairman, and how true my words were — how reasonable they were!

First I brought in my resolution that we should send a delegation to Ottawa to ask for the terms of union. The delegation went, and we have had the terms laid before us and we have debated them. Now I bring in this resolution, that confederation on these terms should be laid before the people in the referendum. Could anything be more reasonable? Could anything be more democratic? This Convention voted by a good majority to send a delegation to Ottawa to seek the terms of union. That delegation, which the Convention elected, cost the people of Newfoundland over \$20,000. Major Cashin says it is \$30,000. **Mr. Cashin** I think it cost \$400,000.

Mr. Smallwood Over \$20,000 came out of the public chest to get these terms for the people's consideration, and what could be more reasonable than to submit the terms to the people? We do not own these terms, Mr. Chairman. The Newfoundland people paid for them, and the Newfoundland people own them. They have every right to pass judgement on the terms. They have every right to decide whether they will join the Canadian family of provinces or try to stagger along on our own. That is all my present resolution or motion does. It only asks that confederation on these terms be submitted to our people for their verdict, for their decision. Let the people decide, says my motion. Let the people say whether they will have confederation. Could anything be more reasonable?

The more I think about that speech of mine that Mr. Higgins quoted from the other day, the better I like it. I will read you another part, a part that Mr. Higgins did not see fit to read.

Mr. Higgins I did not think there was anything else fit to read.

Mr. Smallwood I said this:

We are all very proud of our Newfound-

land people. We all admire their strength, their skill, their adaptability, their resourcefulness, their industry, their frugality, their sobriety and their warm-hearted, simple generosity. We are proud of them; but are we indignant, does our blood boil, when we see the lack of common justice with which they are treated? When we see how they live? When we witness the long, grinding struggle they have? When we see the standards of their life? Have we compassion in our hearts for them? Or are we so engrossed, so absorbed, in our own struggle to live in this country that our social conscience has become toughened, even case-hardened? Has our own hard struggle to realise a modest competence so blinded us that we have little or no tenderness of conscience left to spare for the fate of the tens of thousands of our brothers so very much worse off than ourselves?

I said that, Mr. Chairman, in that speech that Mr. Higgins quoted from, and I ask now, isn't it true? As I look through that speech of mine I find I said a lot of true things, a lot of them. For example, I said this, and as I read it to you I want you to notice how true it is. Here is what I said:

Mr. Chairman, in the present and prospective world chaos, with all its terrible variety of uncertainty, it would be cruel and futile, now that the choice is ours, to influence the handful of people who inhabit this small island to attempt independent national existence. The earnings of our 65,000 families may be enough, in the years ahead, to support them half-decently and at the same time support the public services of a fair-size municipality. But will those earnings support independent national government on an expanding, or even the present, scale? Except for a few years of this war and a few of the last war, our people's earnings never supported them on a scale comparable with North American standards, and never maintained a government, even on the pre-war scale of service. Our people never enjoyed a good standard of living, and never were able to yield enough taxes to maintain the government. The difference was made up by borrowing or by grants-in-aid.

We can indeed reduce our people's stand-

¹Above, p.641.