

a pinch of salt.

Mr. Chairman, during my business life I have had business dealings with Canadians, and I have found some of them to be as crooked as God is straight; and if we give them the monopoly of our trade that Mr. Smallwood advocates, I predict that within five years, if we can survive at all, the majority of Newfoundlanders will be obliged to leave their island home and seek refuge in some foreign land, or be no better situated than if we all lived on the most northerly part of Labrador. I really believe that. After all, Canadians, in the Canadian government or out, are only ordinary individuals and are as subject to taking advantage from monopolies as people from any other land. And I do not blame them, no more than I do the people who have the monopoly of trade in this country. I do blame the governments who give these monopolies to the people who enjoy them to the detriment of the people in general. If we go into confederation with Canada, and that country takes advantage of the monopolies given, which is only natural to expect them to do, I will blame it on the advocates of confederation, and on Mr. Smallwood in particular. No one in this chamber knows better than Mr. Smallwood how bitter I am against monopolies. I do regard them as parasites, because they are sure to eat into the life of any business into which they are allowed to apply. It is senseless, criminal, devilish and the worst thing to happen in any country. It is a scourge that everybody in this country should fight.

**Mr. Smallwood** Hear! Hear!

**Mr. Cranford** Talk about the TB scourge! Why the TB germs in this country are only angels compared with that monstrous parasite called monopoly, because there is no cure. It is protected by the laws of the land to devour us. It has been in the past, and if we the people do not crush it in its infancy, there is no hope for us. If there had been no monopolies in this country, I would have never been seen in this assembly. I am sure it is the root of all our troubles, and I would like to go on record in advising the advocates of confederation to be very careful in their offers and promises that may cause the people of this country to make a mistake by voting for confederation with Canada; a mistake they will make if that germ monopolies is given as outlined in the Grey Book. If that happens, and it turns out within a few years that the people have made a

mistake, I assure these gentlemen there will be a reaction and Newfoundlanders will be fooled just once too often.

I intended to speak when the debate on the proposals for confederation was taking place and to ask Mr. Smallwood a few questions, but after hearing Mr. Smallwood's answers to questions put forward by other members, I took it for granted that Mr. Smallwood was on a political campaign and the Black Books were his manifesto — and a dirty one with that, as they can be subjected to deception, or in any light they would persuade the electorate to vote for confederation, without giving it any consideration if it was bad or good for this country; and I, not being interested in any party politics, did not feel inclined to take part in a political campaign at that time.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, we Newfoundlanders were accused of being touchy and suspicious, of which I plead guilty. I will admit my suspicions have been greatly aroused during the past five weeks, and time alone will show me if my suspicions were well-founded; and the fact that monopolies have been introduced in the offer of confederation with Canada. I cannot support the motion. My not supporting this motion does not mean that I am taking away the privilege of the people from voting for confederation with Canada; because the advocates of confederation can vote for responsible government to be placed on the ballot paper in the referendum this spring, and if responsible government wins, they can place a party in the field and issue a manifesto setting forth just what taxes we will be called upon to pay if we become a province of Canada, and guarantee the electorate that we will not be called upon to give Canada the monopoly of all our trade; also that the province will not be called upon to pay any property tax, and no settlement will be forced against the people's will to form town councils, as promised by Mr. Smallwood — this will be giving the people something definite to vote for. If that is done, I will be one of the most ardent supporters of confederation in this country.

Mr. Chairman, in June 1946, in my radio address to the electors of Trinity Centre, I said that I was fully convinced that one of the pests that ate the prop from under our economic structure was monopolies, and this Convention has confirmed my conviction. I am sure that everyone