

vention comes to an end. When this motion is voted on next Tuesday night, that will be the end of the first half of the battle. Then the second half will commence, after this Convention comes to an end. Then a great crusade of the people will commence, a great democratic people's crusade to bring the truth before the people, the truth that we have never had a fair opportunity of bringing before them concerning confederation. Then, sir, we will gladly and joyously call on the hundred and thousands of our people who have already volunteered their patriotic services to this great battle for freedom and economic security, for mark this well, this is not 1869. This time the people are going to know the truth. They are not going to be smothered with the lies and propaganda of 1869. It was easy enough in 1869 to bluff the people with lies about their property being taxed, but this time the anticonfederates are not going to get away with it, not even if every millionaire, half-millionaire and quarter-millionaire in the country rallies to the side of the anticonfederates. The day is gone when their money-bags will tell our people how to vote. That day is gone, and we live in a different age. Our people are no longer in the mood to bow down and almost worship a man just because he has managed somehow or other to make a great fortune for himself. They no longer measure a man's patriotism or his loyal heart by the money he has in the bank. When we say we have a stake in the country we no longer mean how much money a man has, but how many children he has, what is the size of his family, what is his love for the country. When we talk of "men of substance" today, we include something more than money. Our people are on the march in their tens of thousands. They have formed great trade unions and co-operative societies, and cannot so easily be bluffed any more. They have learned a lot the past few years, and they ask questions, questions that they never dared to ask in the bad old days. They ask questions about our vicious system of taxation. They ask questions about the cruel and oppressive cost of living. They ask questions about a system of taxation and of government that has held them down and made it impossible for a working man to live decently and rear a family by his honest earnings. Yes, our people are in the mood to ask many questions today that they never asked before. They are not so easy to bluff as our

forefathers were in 1869, and our anticonfederates are going to find that out in 1948 when the referendum takes place.

Mr. Chairman, as this present debate will be my last chance in the Convention to speak to the people of Newfoundland on this subject...

Mr. Chairman Now Mr. Smallwood, never mind speaking to the people of Newfoundland. Speak to the Chair.

Mr. Smallwood Well, sir, I have never opened my mouth since this Convention started without speaking to the people, my masters who sent me here. I speak to them now through the Convention.

Mr. Chairman Address your remarks to me then, if you don't mind.

Mr. Smallwood I address the people through you, and you are therefore the most honoured man in this island.

Mr. Chairman That is a consequence of your addressing your remarks to me.

Mr. Smallwood I want to say a word on property taxes. This is the topic that the anticonfederates are going to harp on through the remainder of the period before the referendum. Their campaign against confederation is going to be based very largely on this claim. They will set out to persuade our people that under confederation their property will be taxed, and also their land and outhouses and flakes and stages and fishing room and boats and fishing gear and live stock. You will have to pay taxes on all these things, the anticonfederates will tell you. They will try to put the fear of God in our people about the property taxes. That is their trump card, so they believe. They will try the same game that certain people used in Newfoundland where the people voted on town councils only last year. Certain people who were against town councils went around and said to the people, "Surely you are not going to vote for town councils — they will tax your garden and your house and everything in your house, so much for a cat and a dog and a hen and a pig..."

Mr. Cashin Extra for a pig!

Mr. Smallwood So much so that they frightened these people to death, till they voted against town councils. That is what the anticonfederates are going to try on a grand scale, a national scale in Newfoundland. They will tell you that your property will be taxed, and you will be ground to death by taxes if you vote for confederation. Why sir, I heard the other day of a certain man address-