

chance in life, and wipe away some of the worst obstacles in their life, and remove some of the millstones that hung around their necks.

They don't expect riches, but only the widest opportunity, by the toil of their hand, to earn an honest living. They have no extravagant ambition to become millionaires, but they do ache for common justice in their own land.

When wilt Thou save the people?

O God of mercy, when?

Not kings alone, but nations!

Not thrones alone, but men!

Flowers of Thy heart, O God, are they;

Let them not pass, like weeds, away,

Their heritage a sunless day.

God save the people!

Shall crime bring crime for ever,

Strength aiding still the strong?

Is it Thy will, O Father,

That man shall toil for wrong?

"No", say Thy mountains; "No", Thy skies;

Man's clouded sun shall brightly rise,

And songs ascend instead of sighs,

God save the people!

When wilt Thou save the people?

O God of mercy, when?

The people, Lord, the people!

Not thrones and crowns, but men!

God save the people; Thine they are,

Thy children, as Thine angels fair;

From vice, oppression, and despair,

God save the people!<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Chairman** Order, please. There is too much noise altogether.

**Mr. Smallwood** Sir, I call upon every member of this Convention to vote for this motion. I call upon even the bitterest anticonfederate here to vote for it. Hate confederation all you like. That is your privilege, but do not vote to deny our people of Newfoundland their rights to decide the matter.

We here in this Convention have not been given the right to decide what form of government this country shall have, the people have been given that right, and they will exercise their right in the referendum. If the anticonfederates here in the Convention want confederation to be defeated, let them go out amongst the people, and try to persuade the people to vote against it in the

referendum; but it would be mean and contemptible for them to try here in this Convention, just because they have a majority, to try to cheat the people out of their chance to decide the matter.

Since the terms of confederation arrived here and were debated, new hope has arisen in the hearts of our people. They see in confederation a new hope for the common man. They see in it a new hope for justice and fair play for themselves and for their children. They see in it the dawn of a new day for Newfoundland. Let no man dare to crush that hope that has arisen in our people's hearts. As for myself, I have accepted the words of the English mystic and poet, William Blake, with the substitution of just one word in his moving poem:

Bring me my bow of burning gold!

Bring me my arrows of desire!

Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!

Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,

Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,

Till we have built Jerusalem

In OUR green and pleasant land.

**Mr. Banfield** Mr. Chairman, the greatest honour I consider I have ever had in my life is at this very moment, as I rise to second Mr. Smallwood's motion. I could not hope to find words to express what pleasure it gives me. I am a native of the southwest coast and a resident of there, and as such I would be ashamed ever to go on that coast again if I failed to support this motion with all my heart. I would be ashamed to look those people in the face. I doubt very much if ever a member in any district expressed the wishes of his district any more than I am expressing the wishes of Fortune Bay, and indeed the whole coast when I stand up here to advocate confederation.

Ever since 1869 there has not been a month or a day when those people were not in favour of confederation. In the 1869 election on the southwest coast they elected confederate candidates, and up there today they are only longing for the day of the referendum to come, so that they can march into the ballot booths in their thousands to mark for confederation. Sir, our southwest coast people know a lot about confederation. They know a lot about Canada. In their thousands they have worked in Canada, fished in Canada, visited

<sup>1</sup>Ebenezer Elliott, "When Wilt Thou Save The People", 1828.