

Newfoundland should be voting in May or June for the kind of government they want we may be still here talking about confederation.

Mr. Northcott There is an old but true saying that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." I don't think we should rush the facts of confederation or anything else. These matters are very, very important, and I do oppose Mr. Smallwood or anyone else trying to railroad this thing through. I would like to see these terms, but I certainly want to take my time and there are many things to be considered before seeking these terms.

Mr. Dawe I wish to rise and make objection to this thing. I understand that the proposed delegation has already been picked. I do not think that we should seek terms with Canada on confederation until our natural resources have been properly assessed. I am going to ask Mr. Smallwood what he meant by what he said in the lobby of the Newfoundland Hotel: that if he could find 200 honest Newfoundlanders he would not advocate federal union with Canada. We kneel before God and ask His help, but we don't have to kneel before Canada.

Mr. Smallwood I am beginning, sir, to think now, the last remarks made by Mr. Dawe make me very strongly believe that after all the talk of conspiracy here this afternoon there is in fact a conspiracy, a diabolical conspiracy originating in several sources, a conspiracy to blacken me. When a man wants to know if it is true that Smallwood said in the lobby of the Hotel "If he could find 200 honest Newfoundlanders ... etc." I certainly did not.

Mr. Chairman Wait now, gentlemen, we have to debate this in an orderly way. I want to get this in the proper order. Mr. Dawe has made a statement and you have the right to deny this and you have done so. There is no reason to get heated up in this manner.

Mr. Smallwood I think, sir, I have a very good reason.

Mr. Chairman There is not going to be any fracas between members in the Convention while I am in the Chair.

Mr. Dawe I am not a party to conspiracy.

Mr. Chairman Anybody else wish to speak to the motion?

Mr. MacDonald I have listened to the speakers and I think the great majority of them are not so much against this inquiry to Canada, except that

they are against this particular time to send this inquiry. I am not a confederate. I am something in Mr. Higgins' class. I am not sold on the idea of confederation, or on the idea of responsible government, nor on the idea of Commission of Government, but we have to ask Canada for at least particular terms which she is willing to give Newfoundland in confederation. Because, whether these 45 men like it or not, there are people in Newfoundland today who favour confederation, and they must be given an opportunity to vote for or against it. Now I come from a district where, as Mr. Hollett will agree, we were not told to come in here to support any particular form of government, but we were told to judge for ourselves the suitable form of government and put it before our people, so that they could select the form of government they desired. I think, Mr. Chairman, that there has been a good deal of opinion that we are here to settle the form of government for Newfoundland. We are not in here to choose anything, but we are here to consider and discuss, and then finally to recommend to the people certain forms of government. There has been some reference made to terms of reference of the Convention, and there is nothing to prevent any member from choosing two forms of government to put before his people, the people are finally those to make the choice. Now then, Mr. Chairman, in speaking of this amendment, if this Convention feels that it has to get this information from Canada, why not do it now? Why wait two or three months, or weeks? Get the machinery in motion. Whether we like it or not I think we have to get that particular information.

Mr. Starkes I stand here definitely opposed to confederation at the present time, but this resolution that Mr. Smallwood has brought in, to my mind is one of the most important that has come on the floor of this house up to the present time, and I feel that I would not be playing fair to my district if I did not say a word or two about it. I am very well aware that we have many people in this country today who believe in confederation. They may be right or they may be wrong. I personally am opposed to it at the present time. I am not prepared to argue the point just at this stage. The main fact is that there are many people who are supporters of confederation. We must remember, sir, that they are Newfoundlanders