

fusion, and at the same time give us a general basis on which to either form the groundwork for, or reach our decisions. Hitherto these committees have worked both energetically and smoothly towards their goal, without which any decisions cannot logically be even considered, unless previous bias exists. Surely, should the ultimate summary prove our beloved country to be financially and economically independent, any delegation to anywhere would be both futile and a further source of expense to a country which has already been exploited to a disgusting extent.

Such interruption as this motion would inevitably entail is both untimely and at the present stage of procedure more than impracticable. Indeed I go so far as to say such action to my mind strongly suggests sabotage — at whose instigation it is within my power to think, but not to state. In consequence, as an ex-service Newfoundlander, whose one aim is the freedom of my country for which I fought, I see no other possible outlet than to support the amendment.

Mr. Hannon My first vote in this National Convention is not going to be a silent one. The introduction of the proposal brings back to my mind the old story — confederation, a bugaboo which lies dormant in this country until rumour has it that an election is in the offing. Since our last general election in 1932 up to 1946 the word was seldom if ever heard.

Some delegates have made the broad statement that confederation is a very live issue over the greater part of this country. I have no authority to speak, except for a small section of Newfoundland, the district which sent me here, where I may say confederation is anything but a live issue. However, I can speak from an experience gained by me when acting as employment manager at Gander from 1940 to 1944. During that time I passed through my hands thousands of men coming to work from all over the island, and not once did I hear one of these men say anything in favour of confederation. But after our men had lived with the Canadians and had exchanged opinions, I found that whatever sentiments they had had before, they were certainly unfavourable afterwards.

I am going to vote against the original motion and for the amendment proposed by Mr. Penney, for the following reasons: this is not the time to send a delegation to Ottawa, or anywhere else

— our work as a fact-finding organisation has only just begun. When the work which we were sent here to do is accomplished, and we are ready to submit our official reports to the country, then will be time enough to send envoys to outside nations, if indeed it is even then found necessary to do so.

Mr. Jackman Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I am not in favour of confederation with Canada, nor with anyone. I am a Newfoundlander, proud of my heritage, proud of my forebears. I believe in my country and my countrymen. I am satisfied with nothing less than that our country should be restored to its former position, a self-governing dominion within the Commonwealth of Nations, the cornerstone of the British Empire.

I had no intention at this time to state my mind here in this House. I have already done so in public, but because of this resolution I am forced to partly state what I was sent here for. I am the only delegate who was sent here on a definite policy for Newfoundland. I am not going to talk possible forms of government now. I merely wish to say that I speak for the common people.... I speak for a woman who came to my home shortly before I came on this Convention, and asked me to go into her house and view the circumstances under which she had to live — a shack of about 18 feet by 24 feet, and there were in that shack 16 human beings, half of them with TB, living like cattle. I speak for a man who worked 45 years for a company, and is thrown onto the scrap heap and has to take a net pension of \$8 a month. I speak for the countless numbers of young children in my own district who are barred in from October until the sun shines again next spring, because they have not sufficient clothing to wear. These are the people I speak for, and I have a definite idea of what form of government Newfoundland needs; but I feel Newfoundland must first get back her responsible government before we can go further.

I can continue talking on these lines, but I do not wish to obstruct the proceedings of this House. I said before I am not here to waste time, notwithstanding that \$15 a day is big money for the labouring man. In conclusion I would like to ask the advocates of confederation with Canada this question, I would like to know the answer from them, and the country would like to know