

bring those terms back with us, but they were sent down through the Governor. Nobody can deny that it was our visit to Ottawa and our work in Ottawa that secured these terms. It was not until they were read out in this chamber that we really knew for sure just what the terms would be. But it was impossible for us to be there all that time, and to be meeting almost every day with the Canadian ministers or officials, without getting a pretty shrewd idea of what the terms were going to be like. But we held our peace.... We wouldn't say a word until they came here in writing....

I think these terms are pretty fair. We were told by these gentlemen in Ottawa that no other body, even an elected government, or the Commission of Government, could not get better terms: that these were the best terms available at this particular time. There's no reason that they can't be sort of added to at some future time.... If you look at the thing fairly and squarely, I think that even the Major ... knows in his heart and soul that they're very good, and that it would be the best thing for the people in this country. I do not think that everything would be perfect if we became a province, it could not be, but there would be a great many improvements. The bulk of our people would be better off, and that is the most important thing. I think most family men would find it easier to bring up their families, and our younger generation would have a better chance in life. I think the working man would have a better chance, although our working men are doing very well, I must say....

It was not my first visit to Canada, Mr. Chairman, but while we were there last summer we were given every opportunity to see a very large section of it. We certainly saw enough ... to see what a great country Canada really is. I'm sure that there's nobody can deny that Canada is a really great country.... By joining with Canada we're still going to be Newfoundlanders. You can't take that out of us. I think we were patriotic, although we were told that we weren't patriotic, we were called Judas Iscariot and God knows else. I and my three brothers served overseas in the first war and I had two people serving in this war. That is a patriotism of one form, and there's another form of patriotism, and that's being truthful and sincere and honest with your fellow man. If I really think in my heart, and I do, that con-

federation is the better thing for most people in this country, then I think I'm being patriotic, and I'm being sincere and honest with the people of the country.... We never went back on our country, I can guarantee you that.... But at the same time, we were all very deeply impressed by Canada's greatness, by her progressive methods, by her wide-awake system of doing things.

There's one thing that strikes my mind very much, Mr. Chairman, and that is the fact that if we decide to tie on with that great country, things will have to fall pretty low indeed for Newfoundland to go under. If we become a province of Canada, all that big country will have to fail for us to fail. That's a very important thing, and it doesn't seem that Canada is going to fail very soon. Although Canada may not always be blessed by the wonderful prosperity they have right now, I find it impossible to believe that she will ever go under. I look to see her go onward and upward to ever greater things in the future. I regard Canada as one of the coming powers of the world, and I honestly believe that if we link our fortunes with hers, we'll go up with her. There's one thing about Canada more than anything else that impresses my mind, and that is the wonderful way in which she backed the old country in this last war, and since the war ended. There's no country in the world doing better.... There's one thing about confederation that satisfies my mind, and that is the fact that Canada is a great British nation — don't forget. It's true that there is great friendship between Canada and the United States.... But Canada is still British and proud of it. If we do decide to join up with Canada, it's a British nation we'd be joining.

There are many things about confederation that we would be a while getting used to. Canada is something like the United States in her form of government, she is a federal union. She's really nine countries in one, and she'd be ten countries in one if we get in, only they don't call themselves countries, they call themselves provinces....<sup>1</sup> It is very much like the Newfoundland Federation of Labour, which is a federation of unions, or a federal union in itself. This union runs its own show. There are certain matters that are too big for an individual union to run, and that's why they associate with the federal union. That's how it is with the Canadian federal union. Each province

<sup>1</sup>Gap in the recording.