

confidence on these proposals. I'd like to say that during my recent visit to Twillingate, and during 1947 I was there about three weeks of the year, I found in the minds of some of the people a certain amount of confusion. I hope that I shall be able in some way to bring some order to the minds of those who were confused. Personally I consider these proposed arrangements good, and do not see how we can afford to turn them down. I am a pro-confederate. If we turn down these arrangements that the Canadian government has submitted to us, what have we to substitute for them? Canada is enjoying a marked degree of prosperity, has a record of savings accounts, plentiful employment there and business is booming. It is, as has already been said, one of the most fortunate countries in the world. And if we cannot manage to do it with Canada at our back, however are we going to do it by ourselves? There are people today who question our ability to stand alone. They remember the time was when we had to look for somebody to assist us. At that time Great Britain came to our help — for which we should never be too thankful, and which we should never forget.... Mr. Chairman, unless we have Great Britain or Canada at our back, how long shall we be able to go alone? That is the question that is uppermost in the minds of some of the people today. They realise as I do that we are a small number of people, a small number of producers in a large area, and with a considerable amount of our area cut off during the winter months with consequent loss of employment. I know on the other hand that our geographical position is a strategic one, and Canada realises that as well. There are people who live in the outports, and the life is quite different than here in the city. I represent an outport district, and I know the conditions under which our people out there had to live. I do not think that the British government made any mistake when they had a proviso in electing members to this Convention that they had to reside in the district for which they were elected. I hope that when we get back our government there will be some such proviso, so that the majority of outport districts will not be represented by people who live in St. John's and the Avalon Peninsula. How do you think the people in St. John's would like to be represented by a man living down in White Bay? It is preposterous to think of it....

Our economy is a limited economy. Our gross national earning power is far lower than the Canadian earning power. And I wonder how long our surplus is going to last us. I don't think any member of this Convention has prophesied how long our surplus is going to last, and what we're going to do when that surplus is gone. In my opinion, we just can't do for the great majority of our people what we would like to do, and give them the things that we would like to give them. We can't close our eyes to economic factors. My advice to the members of this Convention is to examine these terms dispassionately, coolly and in the light of economics. We are a small number of people, yet we are a proud and sturdy race. But on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, I do not see why we should always want to remain independent and isolated, particularly when there is a neighbour that's been good to us, Canada, these last few years — what would we have done if we hadn't got them? Only last fall, as far as I understand we wanted 60,000 sacks of flour. We sent up to Canada; the request was granted.

Mr. Cashin They charged us double what they should have.

Mr. Ashbourne Well, they've given to England what England certainly deserved after what she's gone through.... Canada has certainly backed her up, and certainly has done her share in order to help out the old country, that has been demolished and bore the brunt, and marched to victory for civilisation. Now surely the 12 million people in Canada can't be wrong in the nine provinces when they joined up together. And as far as I'm concerned, the form of government which worked for 12 million people will work for 12,327,000, if the people of Newfoundland decide to go in there. We would then have a country where our young men could go when the fishery was over in the fall of the year, particularly if the fishery was poor; they could go from Halifax to Vancouver and earn other monies rather than be unemployed. The whole range of Canadian cities would be open for them. And if some of them want to go there and settle down, and make homes like a lot of Newfoundlanders have, who are we to say that they shouldn't?

Now we are dependent on Great Britain and Canada to help to defend our shores. We haven't got a submarine or a warship of our own. But we have the men, and the men in the past have played