

length than the time allotted to me in showing why this country of ours should not and must not allow itself and its nationhood to be absorbed by the dominion to the west of it, but I think that I should avail of the short time left to me in attempting to boil this whole thing down to its broad outlines, and see the thing at its proper worth. Does not all this confederation business come down to a matter of a cold, commercial business deal, whereby we were asked to sell out our country and our future to Canada for a certain sum of money? And speaking of this attitude, I confess it seems to me to be a terribly serious thing for any country or any people to place themselves in the balance against the pull of Canadian dollars. What is the price, or shall I say the bribe, they offer us? The prize bait seems to be that a certain number of our people will get this thing called the baby bonus. But do they tell us that this bonus is an unsubstantial thing, that it is something that we cannot depend upon? That it may vanish overnight, and that in the event of a depression in Canada it will die a quick death? Indeed, my own personal opinion is that it will not exist longer than two years. Do they tell us that when our babies reach the age of 16 they will spend the rest of their lives paying back to the Canadian government the amount of their bonus? Do they tell us that when our babies reach military age they will almost certainly be conscripted into the Canadian military forces? Do they tell us that in the event of confederation a big percentage of these young people will have to emigrate from this country to seek employment which cannot be found at home? Of course they do not tell us those things, because they know, and know well, that if we saw the truth of these things this baby bonus would be no longer able to bluff and deceive us.

Then they next offer us an enticement. Here again they cover the bitter pill with a thick coating of sugar. You don't hear them tell you that many of those who receive this old age pension will have to surrender their property to the state, and that in the final result all it seems is that the pensioner has to sell his property to the Canadian government with the hope of getting paid back in some small monthly installments. Then there is the matter of our industries. Do they tell us that if confederation comes to this country it will mean death to many of our small industries? That

it will close the doors of numerous factories which cannot hope to meet Canadian competition, that hundreds, probably thousands, of our working people will find themselves jobless, and if they want work will have to get out of the country to find it? And that in many of our larger settlements our tradesmen or storekeepers will find that our dwindling population will do away with most of their customers and threaten them with bankruptcy?

Now we come to another matter, which means much to the religious and law-abiding people of our country. With us, the matter of our educational system is one of great importance, and we have evolved our own system of denominational schools, which time has found to be most suitable to the wishes and requirements of Newfoundlanders. In the event of confederation there is a threat that, as Mr. Crummey has pointed out to this Convention, is a most serious threat to the destruction and overthrow of that system. He has pointed out to us that if Canadians take charge of our country in every probability we will have imposed on us, even forced on us, the adoption of non-denominational schools. What right have we to jeopardise the moral and religious lives of the coming generations in this matter? Why, to my mind this particular thing in itself is sufficient to warn us that the road to confederation is the wrong road for Newfoundland. But it seems that our people are asked to regard this matter from the standpoint of dollars and cents. Well, if we talk of dollars and cents we must also talk of taxes. Are the people of this country ready to take on a burden of taxation, the like of which they or their fathers have never known? Are they prepared to chip in an additional \$35-40 million because you, Mr. and Mrs. Newfoundland, you are the ones, out of your pennies and dimes, who will have to pay for Mr. Smallwood's baby bonus.

Now in this matter I am not speaking from hearsay. I have lived in Canada and I can speak from hard, actual experience, and I tell you that under confederation the people of this country will find themselves smothered and suffocated under an avalanche of federal, provincial and municipal taxation. I have heard Mr. Smallwood, when asked some embarrassing questions about taxation, evade the issue by saying, "Oh, the federal government will not impose such and such a tax. That would be a matter for our own