

it. I suppose after painting that picture, their play is to vote against submitting them to the people on the grounds that if they can't understand them, how could the people understand them? Well, you can lead a horse to the well but you can't make him drink. None so blind as those who will not see. There is nothing complicated or hard to understand about these terms, as I shall show before I sit down. They are plain, simple, straightforward, and they can be understood by any average Newfoundlander. But first we must strip away the tangled brush of wrong statements and twisted thinking that has been thrown all around us. When we have done so, these terms will stand out bright, understandable and attractive.

Now sir, I wish first to address myself to some of the points made by Major Cashin in his speech. It was very noticeable that during the three weeks we were debating these confederation terms, Major Cashin remained silent except for one or two remarks he interpolated as we went along; but now it seems that he was saving up his breath, saving it up for one big effort to destroy confederation with one big blow. So like the big, bad wolf, sir, in the fairy tale, he huffed and he puffed in a long straining effort to blow the house down. For three days he blew and what did he accomplish? He only made confederation stronger than ever. Indeed, his effort was so feeble that I'm forced to conclude either that he has a soft spot in his heart for confederation and didn't want to hurt it, or else that he really wanted to hurt it but didn't know how because he didn't know enough about it and hadn't studied it enough. Certainly, if his speech was the great, expected, big gun that was going to thunder against confederation, the big gun turned out to be only a pea-shooter and a not very good pea-shooter at that. As might have been expected, Major Cashin got off his usual stuff about plots and conspiracies. This Convention he tells us again is just a plot, just a conspiracy, deliberately planned to confuse the people; planned to kill responsible government; planned to force Commission government upon us. Well, I won't waste time commenting on that. Major Cashin evidently believes it, certainly he has said it often enough. I don't believe there's one single word of truth in it. Now he tells us that my introduction of the confederation question, four or five weeks after the Convention opened,

had the effect of dividing what should have been a united Convention. Isn't he forgetting something? Isn't he forgetting that he himself divided the Convention weeks and weeks before I ever even mentioned confederation? Surely, surely he has not forgotten that inside of a week after the Convention opened, he launched an attack upon the Convention, upon the Commission government and upon the British government itself. He told us that this Convention was dripping with treachery, that it was a glorified stall, something to fool us into Commission government. He told us that we should have responsible government, and that responsible government was the only thing we should discuss; all that in the very first week of the Convention's life, and now he turns around and says that I am the one who divided the Convention by introducing my confederation motion five or six weeks after he had made his famous speech, the very speech which threw down the gauntlet for responsible government.

Then Major Cashin tells us that for 14 years the British government has been controlling Newfoundland's treasury, that is Newfoundland's public chest. For 14 years the British government has been controlling Newfoundland's treasury and confederation means that the Canadian government would control it. Mr. Chairman, if the Canadian government controls our treasury as decently, as efficiently and as honestly as the British government has done it these past 14 years, it will be a grand thing for Newfoundland to be a province of Canada, for the Government of Canada has fashioned its fiscal system fairly and squarely after the British system, than which there is none better in the world, none cleaner, none more decent, none more efficient and none more honest. It will not go down well with our Newfoundland people as an argument against confederation to say that the Canadian government will control our treasury if we become a province as the British government has controlled it in the last 14 years. Major Cashin tells us that it's the historical policy of the imperial government of Great Britain for the past 80 years, for Newfoundland to go into confederation with Canada. He tells us that the British government and the Commission government are both in favour of confederation, that they're both promoting and backing confederation. Mr. Harrington, incidentally, sir, told us the same thing.