

that there are people who are half-fed, half-clothed, and a lot unemployed. And unemployment is going to increase in the near future. This being so, let us extend some of this prosperity to these people.

Mr. Chairman, I am not greatly interested in all the long tables of figures that have been presented to this Convention, nor do I think the people are interested in them. I am much more interested in the broad outline of the situation, and I am not too sure that everything is bright for the future in this country. There are too many signs of something altogether different, our people have long memories. There are thousands in this country who can remember back before the first world war. They remember how the price of fish and everything else went up when that war broke out. They remember very well the prosperity that came to Newfoundland in the first world war. Yes, and they remember the depression and hard times and dole and poverty that came after the war. They remember that with very few exceptions that depression lasted all the time from the end of that war almost to the start of this war. And they remember also that when this war came, prices began to jump just as they did in the first world war. Now, Mr. Chairman, this second world war is over — or at least the actual fighting is over — and can you blame people for wondering what is going to happen in the near future?

I am a plain working man, a trade unionist. And I do know something about our Newfoundland workers, and how they live and bring up their families. I know something of their struggles to live, I know something of their struggles to make both ends meet, and I know something of the hard years before the war, and the suffering our people endured. So Mr. Chairman, I must tell you frankly that I am a bit hard to convince when I am told that everything is all right and our future assured. My mind is not a bit romantic, and the hard facts of our people's struggle to live make a deeper impression on my mind than all the talk in the world about the glorious traditions and all sorts of things. I am not going to be carried away by any comforting assurances about our future, for when I remember the past I am still the more determined to keep my feet planted firmly on the ground.

We have heard a lot said in this Convention of the conditions existing in Canada. But, Mr.

Chairman, it can't be so bad after all, as thousands of our people have gone there, obtained good positions and have made wonderful progress. I know lots of them, have been in their homes in cities such as Toronto and Montreal and other cities, and their positions are very encouraging. I will admit that there are people in Canada similar to those in Newfoundland to whom I have referred, but that exists in every country. Therefore, I say to the people of this country, don't be swayed by every wind and doctrine. Vote as your mind leads you, which I will do when the time comes.

Mr. Northcott Mr. Chairman, I want to say first of all just why I cannot vote for confederation, why I cannot support it. First, our fisheries are of paramount importance to me. Our people, a great many of them, live by the fisheries, and under the act we have no gilt-edge security that the federal government will take care of our fisheries. Our Fisheries Board may not function as heretofore. This is a thing the fishermen in Newfoundland will want to bear in mind. Every fisherman will want to know the facts, the real facts, and the truth in connection with our fisheries and what will happen to the Fisheries Board. Gentlemen, we must export or perish. That is a very important thing. That is one of the reasons why I cannot support the motion now before the Chair.

I am also of opinion that there are people in Newfoundland today who just cannot understand the terms of taxation and how they are going to be applied. You will remember that we have all been confused and bewildered. One person will tell you there is no taxation on a certain thing; another person will tell you there is taxation. Our people listening to the radio night after night are really confused over that issue, and I do not want to be a party to or in any way connected with anything that may lead them astray. I do not want the people to make a leap in the dark. This is a serious issue, and our people will want a long time to consider it before marking their vote. That is another reason why I am not prepared to support the motion.

I am not altogether opposed to confederation. I think it is a good thing. It is a new thing, and to us it may be a different way of life and we want to be careful of the path we tread and go slow before we mark our "x".

In closing I may say that I, too, was hurt in