

qualified sense on the advantages of confederation to Prince Edward Island insofar as it affected the ferry service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

Mr. Higgins And arising out of that, sir, do you permit me to admit any reference as to the value of confederation to Prince Edward Island at the same time? I understood it was opened up for that one aspect.

Mr. Smallwood It is rather a wide field if Mr. Higgins opens that.

Mr. Higgins I did not intend making any speech myself, I was merely quoting, Mr. Chairman, from the Premier.

Mr. Chairman Of course it was opened up, but not altogether in a general sense. The discussion thus far, if I remember correctly, was confined to a specific aspect of the advantages of confederation to Prince Edward Island, and I...

Mr. Higgins Was not the statement made that Prince Edward Island had improved as a result of confederation?

Mr. Chairman No, it was restricted to the ferry service only. That point was discussed, and the impression I gathered was that Prince Edward Island had benefitted in that particular only.

Mr. Higgins Well, would you permit me to refer you to a few remarks by the Premier of Prince Edward Island with respect to the advantages derived from confederation? I think it is in order, from what little I know of the debate yesterday.

Mr. Smallwood If Mr. Higgins is permitted to quote the Premier of Prince Edward Island, obviously I will be allowed to quote letters from him to me.

Mr. Chairman Just a moment, please. Mr. Higgins is obviously entitled to quote the Premier of Prince Edward Island provided he is quoting him on a matter which has been discussed or is under discussion. At the moment I am rather afraid, Mr. Higgins, at this particular time it would not be relevant. I am not questioning your right to do it in the course of the present debate, but in view of the fact that I don't want....

Mr. Higgins It has to do with the ferry service, as well you know.

Mr. Chairman Then I will ask you to confine your remarks as nearly as possible to the benefits, if any, accruing to Prince Edward Island as a result of the ferry service.

Mr. Higgins I will do it as nearly as possible, I

can assure you. I am referring now to one of the official handbooks that were supplied in Ottawa, *The Dominion-Provincial Conference of 1945, Dominion and Provincial Submissions and Plenary Conference Discussions, Official Handbooks*.

Mr. Bailey I think our debate yesterday was on the ferry and the train service, and the changeover from narrow gauge to broad gauge. I think that was brought in, on what could happen to us if we came into confederation with regard to our ferry service. That is what I was speaking about.

Mr. Chairman Yes, that is my understanding, and I am reluctantly but none the less compelled to ask you if you will please confine your remarks to these two specific matters.

Mr. Higgins I will do the best I can. Naturally you will allow me a certain amount of leeway. After all, I was only quoting the Premier of Prince Edward Island, and I believe one of the main ideas he had at that time was trying to force the federal parliament to give...

Mr. Chairman Is your point this, that in order to deal with these two specific aspects of confederation as they effect Prince Edward Island, it now becomes necessary for you to quote a general statement which may include other things?

Mr. Higgins Yes sir, that's the point.

Mr. Chairman All right.... I would like members to be clear. I can't allow you to paraphrase a statement. Therefore if the quotation or quotations to which you are about to direct our attention, Mr. Higgins, notwithstanding the sweeping character that they may have, if they cover the questions already discussed by the House, then you are justified in quoting them.

Mr. Higgins Thank you, sir.

[*Mr. Higgins read from a speech delivered in August 1945, by Premier Jones of Prince Edward Island*]

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Higgins, through the words of the Premier of Prince Edward Island delivered in 1945, has been telling us something about the conditions on Prince Edward Island. Let us first of all remember where and when Premier Jones made that statement. The Government of Canada had called a conference of all the provinces in Ottawa to lay before the nine provinces proposals for the rearrangement of certain taxing powers. Each provincial premier got up and washed all