

the amount which our trip cost the taxpayers of Newfoundland. I would regard it as conscience money. Because the fact is that that delegation, in addition to being coldly received and treated as children, was simply wasting the people's money, and I am now convinced that the same situation applies in the case of the delegation which went to Ottawa this past summer. What did we get for that three month trip? What have we got, I ask, to justify hanging up this Convention for more than 100 days? What have we got to justify the spending of around \$30,000 of the people's money? As far as I can see, all we have got for all this is two books with black covers and another one with a grey cover. And as far as they are concerned, it is my opinion that you could go into any bookstore in Ottawa and for about a dollar get a book containing the Canadian facts and figures. The Newfoundland part of the book could have been obtained locally for the expenditure of another 50 cents. Yet, the three books in question cost us nearly \$30,000. Why Mr. Chairman, if the collectors of rare books knew that we were in possession of such valuable volumes, they would come running to have a glance at them. You wouldn't have to pay that amount for a first edition of Shakespeare.

But these famous books we are asked to regard as containing the terms upon which Canada would be prepared to adopt us. Of course they are not called terms. That seems to be a dangerous word, and they are called proposals. The Ottawa delegation, by the way, was neither entitled to negotiate nor to arrange terms, but it is quite obvious that they have done both these things.

Now my first impulse, and that of many other delegates to this Convention when these terms were introduced here, was to have nothing to do with them — to throw them out the window for the worthless things they were. But we did not do this, for the simple reason that if we did, some people might think that we were trying to hide the wonderful offering which Canada was making to us. Or they might think we were afraid to discuss them. They might think we were afraid of the effect they may have on our people. But sir, it was not for these reasons that I did not favour them. My attitude was then as it is now, that the contents of these books were worthless, for the simple reason that they only give us half the story, they are half-truths, what they tell us is what the

pro-confederates want us to know. I condemn them because the information they should give us is not to be found, because the things we should know are kept from us, because the estimates they contain are the wildest kind of guesswork, because the figures in these estimates are false. Because, in a word, these three books represent the biggest fraud that was ever perpetrated in the history of our time.

I am not going to weary you by dealing in detail with the contents of these Canadian proposals. For there is not an item, not a figure which is not open to correction, criticism and, in many cases, suspicion. Let me give you an example: when I received my copies of these books, the first thing I set out to look for was the present Canadian national debt. I felt that if we were to go into partnership with Canada, it was proper that we see how our prospective partner stood financially. I therefore went through the books, page by page, from cover to cover and from beginning to end. And did I find what I looked for? I did not, because it was not there. It had been left out. I asked myself why it had been left out. I became suspicious. I concluded that it must be in the interest of the pro-confederates to leave this out, or it would be there, lined up with all the other attractive items. Well, I finally did dig it up in another way. I got it by discovering that the Ottawa delegation had brought home other documents which they had not produced, some of which, I understand, were labelled "secret" in big red letters. It would appear that the people of the country were not supposed to know about these secret documents, even the Convention was not supposed to know about them. But murder will out, and so what I looked for, I found. I found that, according to this secret information given the Ottawa delegation by the Canadian government, the total federal debt of Canada amounts to over \$18 billion, or a per capita debt on every man, woman and child in Canada of \$1,492. From information taken from the Report of the Auditor General of Canada, we find that the total interest charge on Canada's national debt is close to \$450 million annually, or at the rate of \$35 for every Canadian. But just compare this with our own country's finances. Our national debt is roughly \$70 million as against Canada's \$18 billion. Our per capita debt is \$213 as against Canada's \$1,492. Our total interest charge,