

that she was getting control of not only the island of Newfoundland, but the vast area of Labrador, which only six years before her Privy Council had awarded to Newfoundland. What her ultimate plans for this island and Labrador were in the minds of her long-headed statesmen, who can tell? But the war of 1939-1945 turned the world upside down. The balance of power shifted to the New World. England, in desperate straits in 1940, got 50 over-age destroyers for bases in Newfoundland and elsewhere, something which might have been foreseen in 1933, the year that Hitler came to power in Germany. Canada, too, must have struck a bargain with the mother country, not as well-publicised as the base deal. England's need was Canada's opportunity. The process of rounding out the Dominion was begun.

It seems to be a fairly well-known fact that while the government of Mr. Churchill was still in power, a plan was drawn up for a ten-year programme of reconstruction in Newfoundland. Some sources claim that the return of responsible government was also contemplated in conjunction with this offer. It is reliably understood that Canada interfered, as she did in 1892 at the time of the Bond-Blaine treaty. The late Sir John Puddester, in a meeting of the Public Health and Welfare Committee (of which I was a member, and Mr. Smallwood and others), stated:

Mr. Smallwood: Bearing on that, what is the irreducible minimum?

Sir J.C. Puddester: I made up a list, two years ago of what our outlay would probably be. When the Goodwill Mission was here they talked about a 10-year plan. When they went home, they talked a lot about it and Lord Cranborne sent for representatives of the Commission of Government to go over. Emerson, Dunn and myself went over, and there were visions of everything. I was asked to put down then what I thought we would require in our department and the whole thing comes to \$10 million capital expenditure over 10 years. There was also to be a gift of \$100,000 for 10 years to do construction work.

Mr. Higgins: Did they fall down on that?

Sir J.C. Puddester: Nobody seems to know the real facts; but I think with the American plan of lend-lease and the Canadian raising money, they said, "If you have money to give

Newfoundland, better pay your debts first".

Is it too fantastic, too far-fetched to even suggest that the Canadian government went a step further and made aid to Britain contingent on the entry of Newfoundland into confederation? And that as far back as 1941 or 1942, if I might paraphrase the title of this Grey Book, arrangements were proposed for the entry of Newfoundland into confederation?

It is very significant to my mind, arising out of the remarks of Major Cashin last week, that around the period that he says the plan was instituted, this country became the target for a barrage of newspaper and other propaganda of the most one-sided, unfair, and in some cases, scurrilous type that our people have had to contend with in many years, the greater part of it originating in Canada. The general effect of this propaganda was to convey to the rest of the world that Newfoundland was — to quote Mr. Smallwood more than a year ago in this chamber — "50 years behind the times"; that our people were a benighted race, and that in the interests of international decency we should be saved from ourselves. The obvious inference was that Canada should be the saviour. Mr. Chairman, I cannot help but draw a comparison between such tactics and those used in Europe just prior to the second World War by Adolf Hitler. He sang much the same song. He looked over his borders at Czechoslovakia, Austria and other lands, and with variations on the theme, said that these people should be saved from themselves, and proceeded to march in and "save them". But then he was not hampered by the necessity of even paying lip-service to democracy, like the nations of the western world must do. So the "capture" of Newfoundland had to be achieved by more or less "peaceful penetration"; by power politics in the guise of democracy; in the guise of a National Convention.

Now, Mr. Chairman, before I proceed to a consideration of the "Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation" of 1947, I wish to make one point very clear. I am not anti-Canadian. Far from it. The suggestion has been made in some quarters that opposition to Newfoundland's entry into union at this stage is anti-Canadian. That is not so; certainly not in my case. Anticonfederate, yes. But anti-Canadian, no! I have as much regard for Canada