

tion here from some of the fish producing provinces, probably two of them, Nova Scotia I know was represented...

**Mr. Smallwood** Four of them.

**Mr. Ashbourne** Four of them last fall, to confer with the Fisheries Board and certain others and I believe that they may possibly be taking our Board as a pattern. I believe the Fisheries Board has done a good job, and taking that as a pattern, there will be evolved everything necessary for the orderly marketing of the fish catches of Nova Scotia and the other provinces. This, as I would like to explain, is an act which was drawn up in order to stabilise prices if the need arose, and to give the primary producer reasonable and proper return for his fishery product. If on account of conditions in the markets the catch couldn't be disposed of, they would see that the fishermen did not suffer. The Board has the power to go in and buy the fish and then dispose of it and if necessary deficits can be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Someone asked me a question, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the Canadian government marketed the apple crop from Canada and put certain prices on it at which they paid the man who got the apples. And then they went and they marketed them, and I believe gave some of them to England.

**Mr. Smallwood** They gave them away.

**Mr. Ashbourne** They gave some of them, and saw to it that the man who produced them didn't suffer. That is the idea behind this Fisheries Support Act. That rather than the producers should suffer, they would buy the whole catch if necessary...

**Mr. Smallwood** And give it away.

**Mr. Ashbourne** And if they couldn't market it properly they could go to work and dispose of it and any deficit would be paid out of the consolidated revenue account.

The Board may use money appropriated by Parliament for the purpose to pay all necessary administrative expenses.... Expenditures for the purposes of this Act, other than administrative expenses, shall be paid by the Minister of Finance on the requisition of the Board out of unappropriated monies in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.... There shall be kept by the Minister of Finance an account called the Fisheries Prices Support Act, to which shall be charged all expenditures by

the Board other than the aforesaid administrative expenditures, and to which shall be credited all proceeds of sales of fisheries products....

Such, Mr. Chairman, is a gist of the act for the support of the prices of fishery products during the transition from war to peace. It was passed in 1944 and it became operative I believe in September, 1947....

I feel that there are a lot of Newfoundlanders living in Canada who would like to see us join up with Canada. That was the sentiment that was expressed to me by quite a few that I met during the past summer. We realise that if we go into Canada we shall have those social benefits which Canada is giving her people — the family allowances, which to my mind are good and very beneficial. It puts the money right in the hands of the people who need it most, and I certainly can't see anything wrong about that. It would give our aged people, to whom Newfoundland doesn't give the old age pension now until they get 75 ... the pension at the age of 70. We would be able to participate in these benefits.

Now, sir, it has been mentioned here about the sales tax. I believe that the income tax has been already reduced a couple of times.

**Mr. Smallwood** Three.

**Mr. Ashbourne** Three times in Canada. And it is currently thought that the sales tax will be the next tax to be cut. At present it is 8%. We realise that at the present time prices are inflated. A few years ago, when I had the honour to have a seat in the Assembly, we were trying to run the country on about \$9 million and of course it couldn't be done. We just had to go out and borrow money, year after year. There were a good many deficits, and after a while, when our credit gave out and we couldn't borrow anymore, we lost our government. These family allowances alone are estimated to bring in about \$8 million, over 50 years, \$400 million.

**Mr. Cashin** But are we assured that they're not going to cut that out?

**Mr. Ashbourne** We have no assurance that they're not going to cut it out...

**Mr. Cashin** You are so sure that they are going to reduce taxation, but you have no assurance they won't.

**Mr. Ashbourne** ...We know that \$8 million for 50 years is \$400 million, and that's been practi-