

in the sense of justice that they're building up in this great western hemisphere of ours. I don't feel that we have much to worry about in the fear that we might lose our Labrador possession, seeing that it is legally handed down to us by the Privy Council, and seeing that we're living on this side of the world, this western hemisphere where there is such a high sense of justice. I feel that we might have more reason to be afraid of losing our Labrador territory not so much from anyone outside taking a hold of it, not so much that Quebec will come and take it from us but perhaps there might be some weakness within our own selves, or in our governments of the future which might succumb to offers made for Labrador and we might lose it in that way. We are reminded here this afternoon that a deal was contemplated in selling it for \$15 million. We had a question asked here the other day whether there was an offer made recently for the sale of Labrador at \$150 million. These are very attractive figures, and there is a possibility that sometime our own government might succumb to accepting such an amount as that and thereby lose a great possession....

I am very proud to represent that great country, that great territory in the north which means will mean so much to us as a country. But the concern that has been expressed so far in this National Convention about Labrador has been a concern about the iron ore deposits and the great timber resources that we have there. We must not forget that there is in Labrador a population of over 5,500 human souls.... These great people in the north have received very little consideration from governments of this island in the past. They have been sadly and wilfully neglected by our responsible governments in the past.... It might almost be described as a shame and a disgrace on past governments, the way that Labrador has been neglected, until we found some iron ore deposits and became conscious of its great timber resources and so forth. If we as delegates were to go to the people of Labrador and ask them what they think of governments of Newfoundland in the past, I'm afraid that we would get answers that would humiliate us, as I have been humiliated very often when talking to people in that country about governments of Newfoundland, and trying to uphold the governments

that we have had in the past, and making excuses for the way that they have been treated.... Why I bring this matter up, sir, is that recently two members of the Convention pointed out that when Mr. Smallwood brought in his budget for provincial expenditure, he omitted to put in \$10,000 for dole for the Labrador people. That was pointed out by two members of the Convention and I was asked on one occasion what I thought of it. It was pointed out also on that occasion that responsible governments in the past made provision for dole for Labrador and that's very true.... But very little other consideration was given to these people. Now in the plan that Mr. Smallwood had for the government of the future, there was preparation made for the health of the people in Labrador.... There were plans made for the people of Labrador in that government envisaged by Mr. Smallwood as he brought in that provincial budget. Now dole, it is true, was something that legitimately belongs to them and some plans made for them whereby they might be able to earn a decent living. From the family allowances, from one source alone there will go to the people of Labrador every year...<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Vardy** ....It's not my intention to speak at length on the question of confederation because I am still prepared to cover the whole ground under forms of government, and I wish to avoid as much repetition as possible. I realise that a very large proportion of what has been said will be said again before the final date of this Convention. Those who advocate confederation will talk very little else in the debate to follow, what should or should not go on the ballot paper. I think the digest of what I have prepared to the last question was given over VOCM and published in the daily press on December 27. My position was stated unequivocally, and I have never seen any real reason to alter the views I have always entertained, that our people in this modern, civilised, Christian age should be permitted to think, act, pray and manage their own affairs.... As I view it, taking the English-speaking world as an example, we have Great Britain, the United States of America and Canada strongly contesting for the central seat of government; and well-wishers in Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the British and American colonies in the West Indies. Now all these people

<sup>1</sup>The rest of Mr. Burry's speech is not available.