

homes and go to other parts of Canada and some to the USA, to earn a living. That is something which is apparently unavoidable. We are bound to have with us at all times, irrespective of our form of government, irrespective of our state of prosperity, a percentage of people who find it difficult to make a living; we have them today. And with that qualification, I say that Newfoundland today is more prosperous than ever in the past. The whole country is being developed slowly but surely. Her population has increased and is increasing, and I am quite sure that, given an opportunity, the people of this country can make the necessary industrial and commercial deals with other countries, whereby we can sell these things which we produce. We are producing today much more than our ancestors or forefathers. They stood up and fought like men for the privilege of governing their own affairs.

If we cast our minds back to those days of Dr. Carson, John Kent and many others — and, sir, I have heard what I consider disrespectful words used towards these ancestors of ours — I say they were brave men. They had nothing much to stand up for at that time, but still they believed in the right of mankind to have a say in the way in which they lived and the way in which they should be governed. They were brave men. God grant that this day and generation has produced enough Newfoundlanders to see that we shall regain our political independence and thereby enhance our opportunities to achieve our economic independence.

**Mr. Vardy** Mr. Chairman, the question now before the Convention is the one which is causing so much confusion in the minds of our people, and there are a very large number who cannot see why they should not, if they want to, vote for confederation with Canada in the referendum in the coming spring, and it is these very people who must be protected against themselves, for their fickle minds are their own worst enemies, for surely if such an important step is really good for this country, it is worthy of the closest study and negotiations between our two sovereign governments, who on our side would have full powers to argue for the best possible terms for Newfoundland. It is utter folly and nonsense for anyone to argue that Newfoundland has not got a much greater bargaining power today than ever before. It is also idle trash to argue that she is not

in a better position today to take care of her own household, and for my part, if there is going to be any real serious outside bargaining done with the very thing we should value most — our liberty — it will be every step of the way with the power who will give the greatest liberty commensurate with the greatest amount of economic and social security.

If the federal government of Canada will equalise our debts in some way or other so that we can enter the union on equal terms, and with a guarantee of sufficient revenue to balance our budget as a province, then and only then would I feel justified in recommending to our people that they vote for confederation this spring. The people of Newfoundland elected us to do a job for them. We took it upon ourselves to study and place a value on a certain deal, the very serious matter of confederation. We have carefully studied this matter, and in the opinion of the great majority, the price or terms offered are not conducive to the best interest of our people. That being so, I would say to our critics, "Would it be honourable or honest on our part to advise our people to close the deal?" If Mr. Smallwood sent me out to look at a piece of land he was considering buying, and I considered the land worth \$2,000, and the price was \$5,000, would Mr. Smallwood consider me honest and honourable to advise him to pay the five, at the same time knowing in my opinion it was not worth over two? If he would pay the five, would he not forever after curse and abuse me for falsely advising him into a bad bargain?

We are the trusted servants of the people who sent us here. We have a serious duty to perform, and that duty is to honestly represent the people who have commissioned us to do an intricate, serious and responsible piece of work. We cannot be swayed by our emotions, or the emotions of anyone else who may be grasping for the shadows without counting the cost. It is not correct for anyone to even imagine that the majority of the members of the Convention are prejudiced against confederation, or even entertain one single hard feeling against Canada or Canadians, for it is an undeniable fact that as two separate countries, we are now the closest kin and the most united of any two countries on the face of the earth, and it is my considered opinion that unless the federal government is seriously lacking in