

someone bigger and stronger than yourself.

Let us think on these things. Let us all in this Convention be big about this thing. Let us put aside pettiness and prejudice. Let us view it as statesmen. It is a very big issue and it calls for bigness of view. Instead of picking holes everywhere, let us try to see this thing impartially. Will confederation benefit the great majority of our people? Will it bring down the cost of living and raise the standard of our living? Will it give us a fairer system of taxation? Will it give the poorer man a better chance to live? Will it give our children a fairer chance in life? Will it strengthen our country?

Will it bring democracy and self-government back to us? I believe the answer is "yes" to all these questions, and it is with that belief that I must support this motion to put confederation before the people.

**Mr. Roberts** Mr. Chairman, I wish to state that I will vote for the motion before the Chair. I feel in duty bound to do so, in view of the fact that many thousands of Newfoundlanders wish to vote for confederation. I wish also to state I hold no brief for the people of St. Barbe district, which I represent, as to how they will vote. They will do as they please. I have only one vote, and will do as I please with it. But I would like to tell all anticonfederates that if confederation does not go on the ballot paper, the people of the northwest coast will vote overwhelmingly for Commission of Government. The mention of responsible government stinks with them. After neglect by all responsible governments, and despite all the sentimental poppycock that some of our so-called patriotic Newfoundlanders have been getting off their chests here the past few days, and despite all the taxations they have been hearing about, they know what to expect from responsible government and they are willing to take a chance on confederation. You don't have to take my word for it, let any man who wishes to find out take a trip down that coast and talk about the glories of responsible government; but I warn him to have a plane standing by so as to make a quick getaway, especially if he should tell them they were disloyal or unpatriotic.

Mr. Chairman, a few days ago, a member of the Convention said to me, "If we enter in union, you will see scores of Canadian fishermen down on your coast fishing your lobsters." I may say to

that member that the first lobster caught and packed for export on the northwest coast was done by Canadian fishermen who left the much abused, tax-ridden Maritime Provinces; thinking they were given a raw deal by their governments, they settled on our coasts. But within five years, after receiving a taste of our taxation and our low standard of living and backward facilities, they were glad enough to leave it, every one of them, and go back where they came from, taking with them scores of our northwest coast people, none of whom ever came back, only on vacation to visit their poor relatives and take more of them away.

Dozens of my relatives and friends, after vainly trying to make a living, have gathered together a bit of money with the help of their relatives abroad and travelled to Canada. Ask these people if they wish to come back to the living conditions they left, and they would surely think it quite a joke. My own mother, widowed in the early years of her marriage, left with three small children and little means of support, struggled for three or four years to keep her family together and maintain them; she had to give it up, give away her children, and on the advice of a relative in Canada went there and made a comfortable living. So I have a warm spot in my heart for the country which befriended my mother, above all other people on this earth.

We people on the west and northwest coasts have been in close contact with Canadians, both fishermen and financiers, for years and years, and have not found them the big bad wolves that the people in the interior and on the east coast seem to think they are. Surely, so many of our people would not stay in Canada if they were so tax-ridden as some people try to make us believe they are. As I said before, the people of the west coast who have been in close contact with Canadians all their lives, must certainly regard the ravings that have been going on here about all thing Canadian as pure and simple stuff and nonsense.

I wish to touch briefly on two very much ridiculed subjects, namely family allowances and old age pensions. I have in mind a family not far from my home; a man with ten children and a sick wife. You can imagine, or can you, the awful struggle that man is having to make a living. I wonder would he scoff at a family allowance of \$60 a month, would he worry about the dozens