

Grand Bank, Mr. Cal Pratt of St. John's, Mr. Gerald S. Doyle of St. John's, Mr. F. Moores of Carbonear, Mr. George Kennedy of Avondale and our worthy Chairman, J.B. McEvoy, to interpret the legal points and to keep our delegates out of Canadian goal, I think that a delegation such as this ... could come back with any juice that might be extracted from the Canadian apple. In other words, I think that the gentlemen I have mentioned could drive the hardest and best possible bargain, and would extract everything in the way of advantages for Newfoundland before they said adieu to Mr. St. Laurent. I do not think that the men who went to Ottawa were capable of driving a hard bargain. As for Mr. Smallwood, I do not think that there is a more sincere man in this House than he is. I have known Mr. Smallwood long enough to know that he is utterly sincere and honest in his convictions. He is a very kindly gentleman, and possesses all the virtues and none of the vices. As they say, to know him is to love him. But one quality Mr. Smallwood does not possess. With all his virtues he is not the kind of a man that I would hire to drive a financial bargain; and unfortunately that was the kind of a bargain that was laid in Mr. Smallwood's lap. The men to do this kind of thing are keen, experienced, hard-headed businessmen, merchants, which Mr. Smallwood is not, and which he does not want to be. It is nothing against Mr. Smallwood to say this. In a sense it is to his credit. But in dealing with our Canadian cousins, the quality of the bargaining and horse trading is very necessary for a man to have.

We all know how much the USA is interested in this country. I think if we were wise enough to take advantage of the rivalry between Canada and the USA, we could get almost any concession from either of these two countries. If we had our own government, and sent a good delegation to the USA, I am inclined to think that we would get a trade treaty, and that country would take all the fishery products that we might produce in the years ahead. It is in the USA that our economic welfare lies. They want the things that we have. Canada does not want the things that we have. And we can only prosper by exporting what we produce. I have no wish for a political union with the USA. I think as Newfoundlanders we have more freedom, and a lot of other good things that we would lose by joining politically with either

Canada or the USA. But our economic welfare lies in the direction of the USA, and with our own government we will have very little difficulty in finding the USA very much interested in giving us fair economic terms. We have reached the point where our mineral resources on the Labrador are beginning to bear fruit, and are wanted by the USA; our fresh fish industry is only in its infancy, and is finding a ready market in the USA. And since the USA recognises our immense strategic importance, we are, so to speak, on the threshold of a brighter economic era. It would be a form of madness to throw all of this away by giving it to Canada, with nothing in return. I hope that when the time comes to vote our Newfoundlanders will not be hypnotised by the pied piper. Do not listen to his tune, because if you do, you will do as the pied piper of old did, and if you follow him you will drown in the Cabot Strait. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have had our ups and downs, and our way has been hard and the struggle long. But we have enjoyed some things that we had, and there is more freedom in Newfoundland than anywhere. We are all one big happy family, so to speak. And I think you will agree with me, that neither you nor I want to be living in a time when we cannot sing as our forefathers did, that good old come all ye, "We'll rant and we'll roar like true Newfoundlanders."

Mr. Fudge ... Now, I do not object to any member making speeches in reason, or when he has something to say that is worth listening to. In such cases I can overlook even the most enthusiastic windjammer. For the same reason I could approve of Mr. Smallwood's efforts, if at the same time he had given us some real facts about this confederation business. I find myself in the dark on many matters on which he should have thrown light. I feel that other members of the Convention and the people of the country feel as I do in this respect. Of course, he said many things and made many statements. But in my opinion, for every thing he did tell us, there are at least two others that he did not tell us. He handed out to us in plentiful supply his homemade forecasts and prophecies. He gazed long into the crystal ball and told us of the bright new world that was to be. But while that might be of value to him as an advertising stunt in the event of his opening a fortune teller's parlour, I am afraid that it is not much use to me, because I gave up going to