

any guarantee in any remarks Mr. St. Laurent may have made. Mr. Ashbourne said that we got our exchange for our Spanish fish through London, and this is true: England purchased oranges through which we received our sterling exchange. I would like to point out that it was England purchased the oranges, and not Canada.

Last night I listened to Mr. Gushue's address and I listened very carefully and I am sure other members here must have done the same. If it is Mr. Gushue's opinion there is danger to our fisheries under confederation, well I, for one, believe what he had to say, and I will take his word before the word of anyone else, and certainly before any members of the fishery committee on the Ottawa delegation. There is a very great danger to our fisheries, there is danger that they might be in difficulties overnight, there is a danger that we will not be able to sell to the European markets and this, gentlemen, is a very serious matter for Newfoundland. In fact, gentlemen, it is so very serious that it leaves me no other course except to vote against confederation going on the ballot.

I am not an anticonfederate, if the terms are properly negotiated and if sufficient guarantees are given Newfoundland to protect her against any upheaval that may take place. I am convinced that Newfoundland's necessity to export in order to live requires that she should have the right to make her own trade agreements without reference to the over-riding authority and interests of the Dominion government.

I think in the first place that we should have an agreement with Canada to whom we export six times as much as she buys from us. I do believe that a means may be worked out for a closer relationship with Canada short of federal union, which would be good for both countries; but on the question of political union, I am from Missouri. Canada has not been too liberal with us in the past. I have yet to be convinced that she can do more for us that we can do for ourselves. I have the friendliest sentiments towards Canada and Canadians, but it would take a good deal to convince me from my study of the situation that a federal union would not be the worst decision that Newfoundland could make.

**Mr. McCormack** I do not propose to take up much of the short time at our disposal, but in rising to record my stand on this motion, I wish

to say that in not supporting it, I am not anticonfederate, but rather one who has Newfoundland's best interests at heart. An issue of such importance needs to be examined from every angle and in every aspect, so that we will know the disadvantages as well as the advantages. I hold that even after 18 months and being free of the responsibilities of affairs of state, we still do not know all the answers. I am of the opinion that we can unite in many ways with Canada without surrendering our political sovereignty. We can form associations and share problems to our mutual advantage.

I would remind you that social services and other benefits are not the basis of our country's prosperity; rather our productive economy and markets and at the present time, in particular, general world conditions.

To those who vilify responsible government and talk of the graft and dirty politics we would have, I would say that under confederation we would have a federal responsible government and also a provincial responsible government with twice the opportunity for such dirty politics. If the Canadian confederation is such a happy family, why are so many of the provincial governments, particularly the Maritime Provinces, continually up against the federal government?

In any event the chief consideration in my opinion, and one which has not been very clearly presented, is our position re trade, and we would do well to ask ourselves whether or not our interests would be subordinated to those of central Canada.

Gentlemen, most people will admit that the federal government must collect more from the provinces than it gives them, otherwise it could not continue its services. We are not naive enough to think that Canada is going to give us something for nothing, and we can be prepared to pay additional taxation if we are to receive additional benefits or services.

Mr. Chairman, having these ideas and feeling that the people do not know enough about the difficult aspects of confederation, I do not see that I could conscientiously put them in the position where they might unwittingly vote this country into a union which, despite Mr. Smallwood's statements, would be irrevocable. Some delegates claim we are failing in our duty to the people if we do not give them the opportunity to