

the united provinces wield in the world. The individual provinces don't count for very much, but when Canada speaks the nations of the world listen.

Under confederation we would be relieved of the cost of many public services which at present are a terrible load for this little country to carry. We would be relieved of that terrible but necessary burden, the railway. The postal, airport and veterans' services would be taken off our shoulders and improved. In the field of social service we would enjoy the benefits of family allowances, old age pensions, unemployment insurance and sick mariners' and fishermen's hospitalisation.

I have heard some strange pronouncements voiced both in and out of this chamber within the past couple of months, but none more curious than the assertions that Newfoundlanders were lazy and that family allowances were immoral, degrading and would result in people ceasing to earn a living. The first of these statements I pass by as beneath contempt. But the latter cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. Family allowances are paid by the Canadian government to every child in Canada (and that would include Newfoundland if our people chose confederation) from birth to the age of 16 years. The amount varies according to age from \$5 to \$8 per month for each child, or from \$60 to \$96 per year per child. The purpose is obvious. It is to ensure that every child in Canada shall have as far as possible appropriate food, sufficient clothing and education, notwithstanding that its parents are not prosperous. And, in order that the stigma of pauperism might not attach to the payments, these allowances are payable to all children, rich and poor alike.

Sir, I wonder if these professors of moral science, these dilettante arm-chair philosophers with their smug noses in the air, their full bellies, warm clothes and comfortable homes, can find one solitary clergyman of any denomination in the whole length and breadth of Canada — or Newfoundland — who has ever condemned these family allowances. On the contrary, they have hailed them as one of the most Christian pieces of legislation ever placed upon the statute book of any country. Are these clergymen immoral also? In Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and every other country that is for-

tunate enough to have them, this Christian and highly moral method of fostering child and family life merits and receives unstinted praise from all thinking men. It was quite moral, I suppose, to condemn thousands of our children to the dole, but to pay them family allowances is immoral. Sir, I wonder if these people do really mean what they say? Are they lost to all sense of sympathy for the innocent child who is unfortunately placed? Would they deprive him of proper food, clothing and a chance to attend school? Have their hearts become gizzards and their bowels bass rope? I think not. I wonder if the truth is that this eminently Christian and moral protection of the children will constitute a powerful factor in attracting thinking people and fathers, and more particularly mothers, to confederation, and away from that dearest wish of their hearts, responsible government?

Much has been said of taxation. I have not the time to go into that matter. I would point out, however, that the Canadian government's expenditures here will be at least \$36 million a year, and their receipts from us in taxes are officially estimated at \$20 million. Moreover, as to more than half our provincial revenue, it will be provided by the federal government, leaving \$5-6 million to be collected in local taxation. In other words, in return for our paying a total of \$26 million a year in taxes, we shall in federal and provincial services, both public and social, receive the equivalent of \$51 million a year. The red herring of per capita debt has been drawn into this matter, and we have been told that every man, woman and child in this country will be saddled with his share of some \$1,400. Why don't these distorters of fact go to the logical limit of absurdity and tell us that unless this is promptly paid a writ will be served on every infant in the cradle and his napkins sold to pay the bill? I never heard such trash before. Of course that debt is serviced out of the general revenues of Canada, which is collected mainly by income tax from corporations and individuals best able to pay, according to their profits. That is the whole policy of Canadian taxation — to put the burden on the broadest shoulders.

Sir, the whole campaign against confederation has been a continuous barrage of bald statements unsupported by any logical proof. "Give us back what we had", they cry. "Canada will tax your