

undemocratic franchise and the absence of the secret ballot, is hardly fair. It displays an ignorance not only of Newfoundland, but of world history. South Australia's introduction of the secret ballot in 1856 did not mean its immediate application to the rest of the world. England herself, with her parliamentary government, was without it until three years after the 1869 election, and it was introduced into Britain in all parliamentary and municipal elections by the Ballot Act of 1872, when it spread to America, while up to 1884 the general practice in the United States was open voting. After the presidential elections of that year the Australian ballot system was extensively adopted. Now I think these things are relevant to the discussion, otherwise I would not have gone to the trouble I did during the Christmas recess, to study and read on this matter. If Mr. Smallwood is interested in my sources, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* is one of them.

In that election of 1869, nine confederates were returned and 21 anti.

**Mr. Smallwood** Ten.

**Mr. Harrington** Ten, was it? All right, one more, in the House of Assembly of 30.<sup>1</sup> The confederate papers of the day screamed about unfair methods used by their opponents to gain their seats, but it is a significant fact that Newfoundland history was made not by confederates against anticonfederates, but by anticonfederates against confederates, for in the district of Burin, Carter and Evans, confederates, were elected by a matter of a few votes over LeMessurier and Woods, antis, and a celebrated case arose in 1870 when the Assembly opened, with a question of who had actually been elected. When the hue and cry died down, Carter and Evans were sustained. You can be sure, Mr. Chairman, that if the confederates had any reasonable ground for suspicion that they had been manoeuvred out of election by unfair practices, they would be the first to raise a howl in every district, but as I said, the only side which did have good grounds for suspicion of unfair practices was the anticonfederate side.

Now if there is any doubt in our minds that Britain was pushing confederation in 1869 and that that fact helped to wreck confederation plans, here is a little more evidence. On August 25, 1869, nearly three months before that elec-

tion, the following despatch was received by the Governor in connection with the terms of the proposed union, which had been communicated to the House of Assembly with, as far as I can learn, none of the ostentatious and rather silly theatricals which accompanied the reception of the proposals now under discussion. The despatches were from Lord Granville, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and said: "I have expressed the hope that nothing will occur in Newfoundland to delay the measures from which I confidently anticipate advantages to the Dominion Government and to the Colony." A second despatch, sent to the Governor-General of Canada, said in part: "I believe it is in the interest of the whole of the British North American Colonies that they should be united under one government, and Her Majesty's Government watches with much interest the successive steps that are being taken towards the accomplishment of this great end." That was before the election was held. And after it was held, when the anticonfederate House of Assembly was opened on February 3, 1870, Governor Hill, in his opening speech said, amongst other things, with reference to the question of confederation, "The views of an enlightened British statesman, and one of the highest authorities on colonial affairs need no endorsement from me, for it is quite clear that the current of opinion and events has strongly set in towards union, and I firmly trust that nothing will occur to check, turn or defraud Newfoundland from gliding onward, and that the advance already made may be continued until the Colony joins the Dominion, thus completing the great end so anxiously desired by the Imperial Government." The address in reply, amongst other things, said, with reference to that paragraph in the Governor's speech just quoted, "The subject of the union of this colony with the Dominion of Canada has been largely discussed both within and without this House for several years past, and the result has been a settled conviction in the minds of the people that such union would not be conducive to their essential interests, a conclusion which has manifested itself at the general election by the return of an overwhelming majority of representatives in opposition to that measure. Firm in their adherence to the fortunes of the mother country the people of New-

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Harrington was correct: nine confederates were elected in 1869.