

ber. Now what delayed us?There's an election on in Halifax. The government had a seat there that they had to win. We couldn't make very much progress until that election was decided. Mr. Chairman, what I'm doing now is trying to show you why I'm anticonfederate. Then the next thing turns up is the Dominion-provincial tax agreement down in Nova Scotia that has to be signed. That comes up the 20th of August, I believe — couldn't release any terms up to that time. Nova Scotia had to sign those tax agreements. And then we were making progress, but unfortunately the Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Mr. Bridges died. That created a by-election down in New Brunswick. We couldn't come home then, because if they'd released those generous terms, the opposition in New Brunswick would play on them. Finally, up comes this message. It came before the plenary session, and I'd say they were a little bit tormented. They thought the best thing they could do was get the Black Books ready — give us the Black Books, and after the election in New Brunswick they'd send us down what now has been termed the Grey Book. Now as a member of that delegation, I thought that there was too much politics in the whole game. I went there with an open mind. I went there to get hard facts, and I am of that nature that I've got to be convinced before I really agree. And I've been charged with being cantankerous. You can call it that if you will. But there's the position.

Now then, I notice in that Grey Book that there is no mention whatever of the matter of divorce. Why? Take up your Black Book and it says that the whole matter is a matter for the province. How many provinces in Canada have no divorce laws?In Quebec there are no divorce laws — look what happened. Parties have to go before the Senate. They have to have all the evidence without belabouring the question. The position now is there's a movement afoot that it will not be necessary to go to Ottawa, that the evidence will be taken in the courts of Quebec. If you have all the provinces except Quebec with divorce laws, if you go in as a tenth province, what chance have you got in Newfoundland for being driven into divorce? Look at it in the common sense way. I would like to say that overtures were made in Ottawa so that it would be possible to have some clause in that Grey Book regarding divorce.

I'm inclined to think too that there were some overtures made here in Newfoundland since we came back along the same lines, but nothing became of it and you have no reference whatever.

Same thing applies to education. Mr. Smallwood said last night that I was an ex-schoolteacher. In the old days, when I was a schoolteacher, in the early days of high school teaching, I was public school minded. I've had some experience in Canada and in the United States regarding education. I followed the whole situation and I completely changed my mind, and decided that the best form of education for Newfoundland, as the settlements are divided, is the system that you have. Again, they tell you in the Black Book that education is a matter for the provinces. How many provinces in Canada have denominational schools? Can't you see that if you go into confederation, there is always a possibility that your educational system will be upset? It's one of the reasons why I'm not prepared to take the chance. I don't know, sir, whether the time limit is up or not....

Mr. Chairman Take your time.

Mr. Crummey Mr. Crosbie mentioned it this afternoon, he talked about the Fishery Board in Newfoundland. I know of a certainty that the Fishery Board under confederation has got to go out of existence, irrespective of the opinion of any other of the members of the delegation. They searched around everywhere in the statutes, laws of Canada and they couldn't find any place where they could allow Newfoundland to keep that Board in existence. You can look in the Black Book and you'll find very nice phraseology covering up the situation. The next one and I'll soon be finished. That is the deficit that's going to be created by going into confederation. There's definitely going to be a deficit on the terms in that Grey Book. It was pointed out to the Canadians and asked how we were going to get around that situation. Put on more taxation or take your surplus, and in the Grey Book they've made provision by taking one third of your surplus to cover up any deficits that you'll incur. I could go on a bit longer, but I don't feel like keeping people here any longer. What I'm trying to say is that I am opposed to confederation on the terms presented in that Grey Book. I am not against going into confederation if the terms suit me, being a Newfoundlander first.