

with Canadians about living conditions in Newfoundland. She often told them they had only to slip outside of their back doors to see far worse than she ever saw in Newfoundland. These people never saw Newfoundland. They got their information from propaganda such as Mr. Smallwood delivered here yesterday. Some-time ago I saw a comparison of Newfoundland and Canadian prices in our daily papers. There were some very important omissions. A relative of mine living in western Canada paid for Newfoundland dry cod — and for our worst quality — 50 cents a pound or \$6 a quintal. Our firm packed herring this spring for which we received \$15.75 a barrel, a good price. This person paid 25 cents each for Newfoundland split herring or \$125 a barrel. Our lobster fishermen received the equivalent of \$1 a pound for lobster meal. A friend of mine in Montreal paid \$5.25 for it. I could tell you of other things, but this will suffice to show you that Canadians are also gypped on some prices as well as Newfoundlanders.

I am a Newfoundlander, first, last and always; and if I am poor, I am proud. I am of middle age and am not worrying about my future, but I want my family to get as good a living in Newfoundland as I have had, and I don't see why we cannot find good men to look after the affairs of state. Why should we run whining to Canada or some other country to take us in?

During the years of responsible government I mentioned to a learned friend of mine that I was alarmed at the borrowing of our government. He laughed. "Don't worry about that", said he, "there will always be money for the country to borrow." But alas, the time came when we could not borrow and the government collapsed. I look at the borrowings of our wealthy neighbour Canada with the same alarm, and feel sure the time will come when her borrowings will come to an end in spite of all her reputed wealth. I don't want this country to be a part of Canada and have to face another period of financial stress such as was witnessed in this country in the 1930s, brought about by the borrowings of her governments.

During the war England's national debt increased by millions. Her people had to tighten their belts and the standard of living was down. When the war ended her people said, "Now we will begin to live", but the Labour government,

said, "No, we have a debt to pay. Haul in your belts a bit tighter. Pay our bills, then you can have eggs and bread, motor cars, etc." The standard of living in England today is lower than in Newfoundland. They are now putting their house in order. They are doing a lot of grumbling, but they are tackling the job, and here are we in the height of prosperity afraid to tackle the future — wanting someone else to do our job. Nevertheless, the least we can do is to examine Canada's terms when we are ready, and I hope the people who go for these terms will be proud and upright citizens of Newfoundland, not snivellers and whiners.

**Mr. Fowler** I feel at this time in duty bound to express my opinion on the motion now before the Chair. My opinion, will not influence this Convention to any great extent, yet before the bar of history I wish to leave no shadow of doubt regarding my position in this issue, regardless of whether the judgment will be favourable to me or otherwise.

I consider Mr. Smallwood's motion premature, poorly timed and badly presented, and his unwarranted attack upon our island home could elicit nothing but resentment from a loyal and ancient people conscious of their heritage. I disagree entirely with Mr. Smallwood when he says our outlook is darker than it was a century ago. It is only now that we are becoming conscious of our strategic position at the crossroads of the world, the bastion of the North Atlantic, a position which has been proved vital to the very existence of the Empire, and particularly to Mr. Smallwood's paradise.

I cannot understand how this Convention, with no constitutional rights, can go empty-handed to the Canadian government and ask for terms of federal union. We have no terms to offer them, nor the right to discuss them, and has not the Canadian prime minister himself said that Canada would only discuss confederation at the request of the Newfoundland people through their duly elected government? Many speakers have expressed doubt as to the whole issue, and Mr. Smallwood himself, by the very wording of his resolution showed he was as much at sea regarding the proper approach as any of us. Surely somebody knows the answer. If so they should advance it, and enable us to discuss the whole matter intelligently.