

the delegates to approach the Canadian government with what little information we have at present in this Convention on our economic and financial life. I am not a confederate, never was, and have never given it five minutes consideration. I believe in my own country — Newfoundland for Newfoundlanders — until I am convinced otherwise. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I am in favour of finding out what the Canadian government has to offer us, should confederation become a live question in this country. Many of the previous speakers have already said that we owe it to the people of this country, no difference what our own individual views may be.

This Convention is only in its infancy; it has not yet emerged from its committee stage. Until we have passed that milestone let the different forms of government sleep peacefully, and when we are strong enough, wake them up, and then we shall see what we shall see. Mr. Chairman, we are growing up too fast; let us get back to our committee stage and finish that job first. When that work has been completed and discussed we shall be in a much better position to talk about the different forms of government most suitable for this country. We may find that our own house, with a little window cleaning, may not be so bad to live in after all.

I have listened to the previous speakers for and against the motion now under fire, and I find that a big majority of the members is in favour of finding out what terms Canada would offer this country should confederation become a live issue. The chief obstacle seems to be the time of approach. I too think that the motion is a bit premature, and therefore favour the amendment brought in by Mr. Penny on Monday afternoon.

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Fudge was interrupted in his address the other afternoon and unwittingly sat down. I feel quite sure that none of us wants to deprive Mr. Fudge of his liberty of completing his remarks.

**Mr. Fudge** On the introduction of these resolutions before the House, I rose and objected to the statement made by Mr. Smallwood, wherein he stated that Newfoundland was 50 to 100 years behind the times. I want to say that I did not believe it then and do not believe it now.

It appears to me that the sole aim of the resolution at this stage of our proceedings was to divide

us, so that we may not be able to enquire and to examine the condition of our country, being the first order and may I add the first duty to do so.

I have listened to the debate on this question and I recall the introduction of the Chadwick-Jones report by Major Cashin. You will remember also that in later addresses made by other delegates Major Cashin was attacked viciously. No point was raised then regarding personalities, or that attack was not the proper procedure. But during discussion on this resolution, which in my opinion came before it was sent for, Major Cashin, in my opinion at any rate, was not treated fairly. And it appears to me that the whole thing was unfair. Mr. Cashin merely asked for an explanation from the introducer of these resolutions on whose authority he was suggesting the appointment of senators and delegates to Ottawa. This I certainly would have asked myself, and I want to ask it now and to go on record that I have asked, not only for my own information but for the information of the people who comprise the second-largest district in the country. I feel that we are entitled to such information. I consider that if the statements made by Mr. Hollett and Mr. Harrington are not denied, then there is nothing else left for us to do but accept them as the truth.

Right at this particular moment, one of the most important reports was to be discussed, namely the Forestry Report, which was full of hope and encouragement and would have had an important bearing on the final findings of this Convention. This report in my opinion was too optimistic for the advocates of confederation. They only want the dark and gloomy picture to come before the people of our country. I am sick and tired of hearing some of our delegates stating that we have not got the men in our country capable of looking after our own affairs. Let me recall one of the most important boards set up in this country during the war. I refer to the Woods Labour Board, and I am not alone in this when I say that the members on that board from its very beginning were highly capable of looking after their own affairs. The results show this and they were Newfoundlanders. And I further state, Mr. Chairman, that at the head of that board was another Newfoundlander, namely yourself, who succeeded the late Judge Higgins.

I want to put myself definitely on record as