

all customs import duty on goods coming in from Canada, our cost of living will fall. And just as surely as the cost of living falls, the standard of living must go up. Our dollar will be worth more. It will buy more, and it will go further. Our people will live better. Then on top of that, our taxes will be lower, and not only will they be lower, they will be more just, they will be fairer. Under confederation the heaviest burden of taxation will fall on the broadest shoulders, not on the poorest where it is in our own country today.

Mr. Chairman, those two reasons would be plenty to justify confederation: namely that it would bring down the cost of living, and bring down taxation, and make taxation more just and more fair. But there are many other reasons why confederation would be good for our people, especially the toiling masses amongst our people. They may call family allowances immoral if they like, but I for one cannot see anything immoral about a plan to pay cash allowances to every child under 16 in the country. I cannot see anything immoral in sending a cheque every month of the year into every home that has children under the age of 16. I can see how it would be immoral to deprive our children of the chance to benefit from family allowances, but I fail completely to see how any man can stand here in this chamber and say that it is immoral to protect a country's most precious heritage, her children. We have been told that we have in Newfoundland 120,000 children under the age of 16. That is more than one-third of our whole population. I can think of nothing better, nothing more Christian than to see that these future citizens are guaranteed every month of the year at least enough to eat, and that is exactly what confederation will do through family allowances.

If they call family allowances immoral, why don't they call old age pensions immoral as well? If it is immoral to pay allowances to all our children under 16, isn't it just as immoral to pay allowances to wornout toilers who have reached the age of 70? We have 10,000 old people who will receive that \$30 a month if we become part of Canada. Why don't they get up here and call that immoral? They can call these things immoral, but I know that our people, and what they are going to call the man who calls these things immoral. It won't be complimentary.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to go into the

details of confederation. That was done in the debate on the terms, and there is no need to go all over that ground again. Our people understand confederation now, at least the great majority of them do, and if there are still a few who don't, then no doubt they will get the chance to understand them before the referendum comes around. A great effort was made here to try to make it look as though confederation was too hard a thing for our people to understand, but those who bank on this are banking on something that will not stand up. Our people are not what some persons think. They have gathered around their radios in their thousands, all around the country. They have studied this thing, and understand it far more than some people realise. You will see how right I am, sir, when the votes are counted in the referendum.

In common fair play, Mr. Chairman, confederation must be placed on the ballot. Our people must have the chance to vote for or against confederation. The choice must be theirs. It would be a criminal and shameful thing if this Convention voted against letting the people decide. I know that a majority of the members here are against confederation. Well, that is their right. They have a right to be against confederation, but they have no right to deny the people their chance to pass judgement on it in the referendum. Some members may be quite careless of what the people think of them. Some may even be carried away with the fact that here in this Convention they happen to be lined up with a majority, but this Convention will soon be a thing of the past, and then that majority will be a thing of the past. Members would be short sighted indeed to defy the people just for the sake of pleasing the majority here in the Convention.

Mr. Higgins I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if we might have a recess for five or ten minutes?

Mr. Banfield I have only one minute, and if you will not mind waiting that long, I will be through.

Newfoundland cannot stand alone, all our history proves that. We need someone at our back. We need a strong partner. We cannot and dare not face the fight on our own. That great and wealthy nation, Canada, invites us to go into partnership with them. They hold out their helping hand. Our people would want to grasp that hand. Let us give them the chance to do so in the referendum.

Mr. Chairman We will take a brief recess. I wonder Major Cashin, in the meantime, if I could