

lion from us. Let's say that I'm out as much as 50% in my estimate. Let's say it would be \$9 million a year that the provincial government would collect. In that case, stretching it like that, the two governments between them would take \$39 million from us a year, or still \$1 million less than we're paying now. Mr. Northcott may say that in that case, we'd only be \$1 million dollars better off under confederation, just \$1 million dollars a year better off. But that is not so. Besides that \$1 million a year, 120,000 of our children under the age of 16 would be getting \$8.5 million a year in family allowances, and 10,000 of our senior citizens would be getting \$2.5 million a year in old age pensions. Our railroaders would be better off, our civil servants would be better off, our cost of living would be lower than it ever could be without confederation, and our people would have the satisfaction of knowing that their country was linked up with that great British nation we call Canada.

Mr. Northcott asks me to say something on the question of divorce...<sup>1</sup> I am trying to fathom why Mr. Northcott is so interested in the question of divorce. I know Mr. Northcott is happily married, and that's why I've been trying to figure why he's been so interested in having me say something about divorce in case we go into confederation. I'm sure that he has no motive except a perfectly good one. And so for that reason I'm going to say something about divorce in case we become a province of Canada. Sir, we have no divorce laws in Newfoundland. We never did, and I hope we never will. Those provinces of Canada that are in the union now, some of them had divorce laws before confederation was started in 1867. They took their own laws into the union with them.... I don't think that any other province since then has passed any divorce law of its own. If Newfoundland goes into confederation, I would give it as my opinion that it's very unlikely, highly unlikely, that we'll ever get a House of Assembly elected here that will pass a divorce law, I don't think that's likely to happen. If Mr. Northcott was a member of that provincial House of Assembly, I don't think he'll vote for any law to grant divorce in Newfoundland. I know I won't. I don't think Mr. Starkes or Mr. Vincent or Mr. Hannon or Mr. Jackman or Mr. Watton or any of us who should happen to be in the provincial legislature

of Newfoundland, will ever vote to pass a divorce law. That's very unlikely. But even if we don't, we might still be able to get divorced, that is true. We could do as the people do in the Province of Quebec. Quebec has no divorce law — never did have one and I don't suppose she ever will have one.... There are only two possible grounds for divorce — adultery and desertion. And if a person in Quebec wishes to get a divorce, what he's got to do, or she, is this: go to the Parliament of Canada, the Parliament mind you, and get the Parliament to pass an act for him or for her, one law for him or for her, not a law for everyone or for a lot of people, just for him or for her. First of all the application is put before the Senate of Canada. There's a committee of the Senate — they're poisoned with it, they hate it, it stinks, they don't like it, this committee — but it has to go before that committee. The committee passes on it, like a court. And if the committee agrees that the evidence that's produced is good enough, they will pass a law in the Senate, then from the Senate it goes to the House of Commons and if they agree with it, the Governor-General of Canada signs that bill, and that one person is divorced. Or rather, I should say those two persons are divorced. If we become a province we can do that. A person in Newfoundland wishing a divorce can hire a lawyer, and the lawyer can prepare his case. If he can prove to the Senate of Canada either adultery or desertion, the Parliament may pass an act divorcing that one person from his spouse. That costs from \$1,000 to \$1,500. So while I am not prepared to guarantee that under confederation there would never be anyone divorced, I am firmly convinced that if you have one or two or three people getting divorced, it's as many as you'll have. If you take this country in the last number of years you'll find this, that although we have no divorce law there are still Newfoundlanders who get divorces. Oh yes, there are Newfoundlanders who get divorces, not in Newfoundland, and they marry again. We have people who have been divorced from their first wives and who are now married to a second wife although we have no divorce law. So under confederation there might be one or two or three cases. I don't think we need to worry about it. We needn't lose any sleep.

I'm sorry that Mr. Hillier is not present

<sup>1</sup>Gap in the recording.