

foundland with a view to determining what resources may profitably be developed and what new industries may be established or existing industries expanded, the Government of Canada will make available the services of technical personnel and agencies to assist in the work.

As soon as may be practicable after union the Government of Canada will make a special effort to collect and make available statistical and scientific data about the natural resources and economy of Newfoundland, in order to bring such information up to the standard attained for existing provinces.

There is a story behind that clause, which the members no doubt might like to hear. We had got fairly well along in our talks when I raised what I thought was a matter of fundamental importance to Newfoundland. I said, "Mr. St. Laurent, as long as I remember I have been hearing a certain phrase used by people, and that is about opening the country up — opening up Newfoundland. That is a sort of old-fashioned, homely way of saying that we would like to have Newfoundland developed — expanded and developed. Now", I said, "what would confederation do to open up Newfoundland, to open up her resources, to develop her resources and expand her economy?" I did not get very far at that first meeting. One member only of the conference supported me, and that was the Hon. Brooke Claxton. I said it again, and still did not get very far, but at the third one they agreed to insert a clause covering the situation, and that clause is here: the Government of Canada would provide the services of technical personnel and agencies to assist in the work. In what work? In the work of making an economic survey of Newfoundland to see what resources may be developed, and what new industries may be established, or existing industries expanded, and then ... it says: "As soon as may be practicable after union the Government of Canada will make a special effort to collect and make available statistical and scientific data about the natural resources and economy of Newfoundland, in order to bring such information up to the standard attained for existing provinces." Wherever in these terms the word "Newfoundland" occurs, that word includes Labrador, so that an economic survey of

Newfoundland means an economic survey of Newfoundland and Newfoundland-Labrador, and that kind of survey is going to take many millions of dollars to conduct. It cannot be done, you cannot scour and scrape the island of Newfoundland and the 100,000 square miles we own down there in Labrador, for minerals and water-powers and timber and other natural resources without it taking several years and many millions of dollars. And that, not family allowances, important as they are, not old age pensions, not the various social security payments that will come into Newfoundland, and not the subsidies that will be paid to the government of the province of Newfoundland, not these things, but this clause — the economic survey of Newfoundland — is in my opinion the most important thing in this entire document.

Mr. Hollett Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments with regard to that particular section. The first thing I notice is the phrase "Should the government of the province institute an economic survey" — "should they". It is problematical. I go on further: "As soon as may be practicable" — God only knows when that will be — "As soon as may be practicable after union the Government of Canada will make a special effort to collect and make available statistical and scientific data about the natural resources and economy of Newfoundland, in order to bring such information up to the standard attained for existing provinces." Now, I ask members to fix in their minds the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. They are existing provinces, they have been there, most of them, for 70 years. I wonder if Mr. Smallwood could tell me if this economic survey, which is the standard for all the provinces in Canada, has in any way affected the prosperity or otherwise of, say, Prince Edward Island. Usually, if you improve the economy of a country the population of that country increases. Take Prince Edward Island — the population has hovered around 90,000 for the last 70 years.

One more point, we have had economists in this country galore. We have had people prospecting for ore. All the wood we have is now being exploited, we are catching as much fish as we can. Did these Ottawa people indicate what other prospects there might be in this country ...? I just raise the point because I don't want anyone