

any two or more such classes of persons to amalgamate or unite their schools and to receive, notwithstanding such amalgamation or union, their proportionate share of the public funds of Newfoundland devoted to education.

If anyone thinks that Canada is not bending over backwards to make easy the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, let him read that education clause — not only read it, but take note of the most peculiar position that arose out of the debate before Christmas. I cannot recall the exact day that Mr. Smallwood made, what I consider, a revelation. On this matter Mr. Smallwood was rather humble, I thought; not only on behalf of himself, but of the rest of us as well. I do not recall the exact words, but I think the gist of his remarks went something like this: now here is this education question — a matter of conscience as the Canadian Prime Minister pointed out in his letter — something on which Newfoundlanders feel very strongly. Now, we in this Convention are just a bunch of ordinary fellows, floundering through, so to speak — we're not the heads of the denominations, so we cannot be expected to appreciate the implications of this clause. Therefore, if any or all of the heads of the various denominations or other high ecclesiastical sources see any complications in this clause, they are perfectly at liberty to address a letter or some other communication to — now I'm not sure if Mr. Smallwood said the Convention or the Canadian government, but I believe it was the latter, expressing their opinions and suggesting changes or alterations.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I ask you, isn't that the most peculiar position that has arisen in this Convention in your time? It certainly is in my time. We are not competent to pass on the merits of this clause 19, on a matter with which we are all familiar, education, since we were born. Yet we are considered to be competent to pass on the fairness of all the other clauses, including the most complicated financial arrangements, the most far-reaching international questions like the American bases and an international airport, in fact, on confederation itself — the most crucial and controversial issue that has faced this country in nearly two generations. And the very suggestion itself, that contacts be made inside or outside this house with the Canadian government to alter

that clause in any sense, shape or form would most assuredly, as far as I am concerned, take on the aspects of negotiation and nothing else.

Now, on the clause as it stands. It appears to have covered every angle and stopped all the loopholes, but before leaving it I would like to point out that other and similar clauses were written into the BNA Act on the same matter when other provinces were being taken into confederation — "taken in" is probably the right term for it, too. For instance, Manitoba — BNA Act, section 22 (2)... That was in 1870 when Manitoba became a province. But what happened in 1890, 20 years after? The Liberal government of the day unified the schools in a non-sectarian system. There was a great stir over it, an appeal was made to the clause in Manitoba's terms, especially the section which, in effect, meant that the federal government could override the provincial government's decision on this matter. But when the appeal was made, Sir Wilfred Laurier pointed out that while the federal government might by legislation direct the correction of the grievance, it had no power to intervene in the administration of education in Manitoba; for education, after all, was a responsibility of the province. So that clause to safeguard the separate denominational schools in Manitoba was not worth the paper it was written on, anymore than clause 19 in these so-called terms.

Now, sir, I have finished my references to specific clauses ... and I wish to make a few general remarks on the Grey Book. In the first place, they are not terms of union, as their proponents are striving so hard to assert. The delegation to Ottawa had no power to negotiate terms. Its job was to ascertain if a fair and equitable basis existed for the entry of Newfoundland into the Dominion of Canada. Out of their three month stay came the two Black Books, incomplete as we have discovered, and regardless of how or when it came, this Grey Book, titled *Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation*. The dictionary defines "arrangement" as the "act of arranging or putting in an orderly condition, the state of being so arranged; disposition in suitable form". A very general definition, and one which fits this Grey Book very well. It is a nice arrangement of a basis of union set down in 23 clauses and several annexes. The dictionary defines "terms", on the