

Labrador 110,000, and we have to spend money on that too now, with the work started and not finished; we are going to do this on \$14 million when it is costing us today \$30 million. I am not including today what Canada is going to take over. What is left to us will cost us \$30 million. What is wrong with everything? I can't remember Mr. Smallwood, or any other Newfoundlander having any experience in provincial or municipal taxation or spending, so I must look for it in those provinces that have had it for nearly 100 years, and no doubt through trial and error have found out the best way to apply it in the way that will cost the taxpayer the least taxes. So in looking through the assessment I find that in many provinces their social service is on a much higher scale than ours, and the provinces are paying twice the amount of money which Mr. Smallwood is budgeting for, and it does not make sense to me, for we must face this question in the Grey Book which says that within eight years a royal commission will be set up, and the question will be gone into.

I think before we consider the question of confederation at all we should have gone into this and thrashed it out thoroughly. That would have been the first step, to get the laws of Canada, their assessment, their taxation, and it should have been gone into so that we would know what is before us in the future. One thing we should have had was this information, and before our people vote they too should have it, but it is the last thing that the powers that be intend that we should have, so we are faltering along without it. Mr. Smallwood made great capital out of belittling the assistance of the municipal councils in those provinces, but to look at it from a common sense point of view, and see what part they play in the everyday life of our Canadian neighbours, I want the people to know that in the provinces they play a leading part. They are well governed, and without this form we cannot have good government, I only wish our economic system could stand it, and if I were a praying man I would pray that day would soon come when we could go into it in a big way and benefit from it.

First they would educate our people how to govern wisely, give them a sense of responsibility, for it is the greatest curse of our government in Newfoundland which would be removed — the curse of one body collecting the taxes and

another body spending it. People would learn that the taxes were coming out of their own pocket, and would realise that they were not to be frittered away. And last but not least, we would demand that the taxes be spent for the good of the community, and consequently everything would be better off for it.

These are my convictions. So you see that although I believe in all there is, yet it is those terms, taxes and trade that makes me the anticonfederate I am. Now if we had an income to pay these taxes without undue hardship, and if we had a domestic market in Canada for our products whereby we could fill our stomachs with Canadian flour and grain feed for our animals, then you can pin the maple leaf on my arm right away.

**Mr. Harrington** Sir, I begin by referring to a reply made by Mr. Bradley, member for Bonaville East, at one time Chairman of this Convention, and also of the Ottawa delegation, to a speech made by the Prime Minister of Canada at the first meeting of the Newfoundland and Canada delegations at Ottawa, on June 25, 1947. I want to quote:

It was a great dream that the founders of this Canadian union had 80 years ago, when they foresaw on the northern half of this continent a vast British nation stretching from St. John's to Victoria. Two of our own Newfoundlanders shared that dream and did what they could to give it birth — Sir Frederic Carter and Sir Ambrose Shea, who will go down in history as two of the Fathers of Confederation. Newfoundland did not elect to enter the new union at that time, but when we remember that the union itself was very new, and was not all understood by our people, and the more important fact that Newfoundland did not then enjoy a democratic franchise or the secret ballot, it is easy to understand why that first invitation to Newfoundland to enter the partnership was rejected. The other rejection was not made by the Newfoundland people, for it was not submitted to them. That was the occasion, in 1895, when your Dominion was administered by the government headed by Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The failure of that attempt at federal union of the two countries was due largely to the hurried nature of the