

sible that we may have another, I do not know.

To me, sir, it is a very serious question. I don't know if any person thinks the same as I do, but it is a question which has been tormenting me considerably ever since the first day I stepped into this assembly, and it will be a serious thing until the time comes and I go from this assembly and look about on the whole scene and weigh the matter from every angle, and then finally make a decision. When that decision is reached I shall vote as I then think, conscientiously, rightly or wrongly, to be in the interest and general welfare of Newfoundland.

It seems to me, sir, with my little knowledge of public affairs in Newfoundland — I own I have not the experience which some of my good friends have in business and politics; I admit my shortcomings in that respect. I have never before come out in public or spoken in public, and this has been my first time speaking in this Convention, and it is an honour which I shall never forget, and it is something which I shall take with me to the end of my days. But I feel, Mr. Chairman, that — and I believe there are others who feel the same — whether now or in two or five years time I do not know, the people have to say, but I feel, sir, that Newfoundland will at some time or other be obliged to unite with some larger power for her general welfare and progress, and as I think of that I ask myself this question — I do not make a definite statement, but I ask myself this question — would it not be as well to do that now? I say we probably might do worse than unite with the Dominion of Canada.

The question, I realise to the full, rests with the people of Newfoundland. I must be one of the many, as I remarked just now, not one of preliminary experience, not one who has been connected with public life in this country as some here, or greatly associated with the business life of this country as many gentlemen on the other side. The question rests with the people, sir.

This, Mr. Chairman, will be my last time appearing in public. It will be the last opportunity I shall have of standing in this assembly, but I have this to say, that I shall take back with me happy memories of association with fellow delegates from all over Newfoundland. It has been a great privilege and a great pleasure to meet these men, because I have from them gathered much valuable information. I have gathered

something of what life is like in Newfoundland as a whole. I have been able to draw comparisons, and I find there is a great similarity all around Newfoundland. To all my listeners, sir, I say a cheery good luck, and good luck to Newfoundland!

Mr. Job Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few remarks. They will only take a few, perhaps five or six minutes. I feel that I am one of the juniors here, that have not to speak too long, while the bigwig on my right, and the two bigwigs on my left will have a good deal to say, I expect. But I want to deal with this motion before the Chair. I am not at all opposed to giving our people the opportunity of expressing their views in connection with the well-considered plan for confederation with the great Dominion of Canada, and I want to make it absolutely and completely clear that I am not against confederation in principle, and on terms which would ensure justice to Newfoundland. But I am definitely and positively opposed to the motion before the Chair for the following reasons. Now one of these reasons has already been dealt with quite nicely and extensively by the member for Carbonear, Mr. Penney, and I am not therefore going to go over that ground again, except that I feel that if we should enter into confederation before endeavouring to utilise our great strategic position as a basis for seeking joint help or assistance in some way from Great Britain, Canada and the United States on the lines I have advocated on several occasions, I think we would be casting away a most valuable bartering opportunity for seeking something which might be very much better for the future of this country than anything we can gain from confederation with Canada. I feel that if we conclude arrangements with Canada on the basis of the terms indicated, without trying for something better, we shall live, or some of us will, to regret it, as the opportunity for expansion of our own resources, especially those of the fisheries on the basis of trade with America, will be lost forever.

I believe it is entirely wrong in principle to place before the electorate, for a decision which will be irretrievable and irrevocable, terms which have not been the subject of negotiations in any form whatever, but which are simply the ideas of one of the parties as to a fair and equitable basis for union. And I further believe that the terms indicated can be improved upon, and unless they can be, we should be inviting future financial