

to the Dominion of Canada. I repeat, some people may think I am talking wildly, but I would ask them to remember that long before this I made statements in this house which were regarded at the time as wild prophecies, but time proved that I was right. All I ask you then to do in the present instance, is to watch events develop in the coming two months, then pass your judgement on the statements I make today. Watch in particular the attractive bait which will be held out to lure our country into the Canadian mouse-trap. Listen to the flowery sales talk which will be offered you, telling Newfoundlanders they are a lost people, that our only hope, our only salvation, lies in following a new Moses into the promised land across the Cabot Strait. By the way, I note by recent papers, that there are 30,000 men unemployed in the Maritimes alone. Can it be that things are so wonderful in this Paradise that men don't need to work? Gentlemen, before leaving this matter I would say just this, look out for those amongst us who would take ourselves and our country on a one-way ride.

But let me again return to my comments on the delegation to England. Now, as I mentioned in the beginning, there are some people who had the impression that we went to England looking for favours and handouts from a starving and depressed people. Such is emphatically not the case. We went to investigate and discuss Newfoundland affairs. We wanted to know what they were doing with our money. We wanted to know why they had given away parts of our sovereign territory, and we wanted to know above all else what they intended to do about our rights as a politically free people. For ten years we have been trying to get this information out of the local Commission, but in vain. And after our trip we are little wiser than we were before. But as for wanting to get any handouts from Britain — why nothing could be further from the truth. We did not ask for anything from Britain — not a dollar of her wealth, an ounce of her food, an inch of her territory. And I think the other members of the delegation will agree with me when I say that in the person of Viscount Addison we had to deal with a man who was quite competent in protecting his country's assets. Talk of giving — why he would not even give us an answer to many of our questions. And in the two weeks we were in England we were only granted three meetings. To

my mind, Viscount Addison gave an example of political economy of the highest order. He was the soul of economy and political tact. Of course it would not be fair to place all the blame on the shoulders of the noble lord, because it was quite obvious that he was acting under strict orders, and these orders seemed to be, as regards the delegation, "Tell them nothing and give them nothing". We asked him plenty of questions. We showered him with them, but he shed them like a duck. He had his orders not to go beyond a certain point, and beyond that point he refused to budge. Sometimes we thought we had him tied up, but he wiggled out with the ease of a Houdini. However, there were one or two occasions when he found himself out on a limb. I remember in particular when he was trying to justify the base deals. He put up his defence, that the British government were forced to give the United States these bases because they were in a hole and Great Britain desperately needed destroyers. He elaborated on this point and made much of it, saying that "lives had to be saved."

I could go on at great length, Mr. Chairman, commenting on the many phases of this visit of ours, but I believe it is best summed up in the London newspaper which refers to it as follows: "How cold, graceless, ungenerous and chuckleheaded is the attitude of the Government towards Newfoundlanders." It goes on to say: "It could not, it dare not go back on Britain's pledge of 1934, that as soon as the Island's difficulties had been overcome, Responsible Government on the request of the people of Newfoundland would be restored. Yet today it talks of special difficulties of our financial position and tells the Newfoundlanders harshly that, if they vote away the present Commission, Britain will no longer guarantee the interest on Newfoundland's loan of \$71 million. Is this the way to talk to our kith and kin? When Newfoundland made Britain an interest free loan of £2.5 million for the war effort, she did not extract a promise in return. Newfoundland sent her young men to fight alongside us, sent her sailors to defy the U-boats, she provided bases, she begrudged nothing. The statement made to the Newfoundland delegation by a government which has poured out millions in dollars to succour strangers from China to Czechoslovakia in the last two years is contemptible". That is the summary of the London