

not receive the report of the Ottawa delegation with any great amount of enthusiasm. Even more significantly, people outside this chamber have not allowed themselves to be carried away by its rosy contents. The answer to this is not hard to find. Newfoundlanders are as a whole a realistic and common sense people. They know by hard experience that pennies don't fall from heaven. They look with suspicion on anyone who tells them they are going to get something for nothing. In spite of all the high pressure sales talk, in spite of all the hour-long speeches our people are still suspicious. In the meantime this Canadian prospect is being stripped down to its frame and the stuffing has been taken out. In short the thing is being debunked and Santa Claus is having his whiskers pulled off. If I were to give credit to any one man for his valuable service in showing up this confederation issue, it would be Mr. Smallwood. His over-eagerness to convince us showed us that we should not allow ourselves to be convinced, and above all, he is the one who impressed it indelibly on our minds, that we should not for a moment consider anything that would be of sound presumption. We remember how, when the Economic Report was brought in with its modest three year forecast, he denounced the committee for daring to make any forecast. Such things, he said, were not worth the paper they were written on. Mr. Smallwood told us it was neglect for us to work on the basis of presumption. And this same gentleman, this hater of presumption and forecast, came in here and coolly asked us to accept his budget based on no less than an eight year forecast. Well, we knew then just what we were up against. We knew just how much value we could place on all that he had said before. I at least am duly grateful to Mr. Smallwood for his distinguished service in helping me to see the real meaning of this confederation issue.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to waste the time of this Convention by dealing in detail with the report before the Chair. Other members have already dealt with the figures contained in it. They have dealt with them as they deserved, and it is not worthwhile kicking a dead horse. We know that they are unreliable. I feel sure that all intelligent Newfoundlanders already know this, but there are doubtless many who have not the means of getting in touch with our deliberations,

and they are still under a delusion. It should be the prime duty of all of us to get the truth to these people. I heard a lot of talk about taxes. But I note that when Mr. Smallwood is asked about certain taxes, he tells us that the Canadians won't put that tax on us, that will be the matter for the provincial government. Is he trying to give us the impression that since the federal government won't impose a particular tax, it won't be imposed at all? We know too well that every tax necessary to balance our budget will be placed on our people. What does it matter who takes our taxes, so long as we have to shell out our dollars? This is one point you will not hear Mr. Smallwood talking about. All he has told us are the good things. For instance, they say that every Newfoundland child under a certain age will be entitled to a baby bonus. But why not say that the same child after he comes of age will spend the rest of his life paying back the baby bonus in taxes? They tell us all of all the benefits which will come to our workers under confederation. But they do not tell us that under confederation every small industry and factory in the island will be put out of business and its workmen out of jobs. In St. John's alone, Mr. Chairman, and throughout the country in a few years those industries will be reduced and our people out of work and forced to go and make a living elsewhere. In time, all we will have in this country will be the very young and the very old. Why not tell about the Canadian tax collector who will go around selling our people's property? Why not tell our people that no government on earth gives its people something for nothing; that for every dollar the Canadian government gives us, it will demand a dollar, perhaps more in return? We will be taxed here, there and everywhere. We will be taxed from the cradle to the grave. This report is only a reminder of the saying that figures sometime lie, that it is easy to put a bright coat of paint over an old rotten skiff and pass it off as something good. I suggest therefore, that in the matter of this Ottawa report we accept Mr. Smallwood's own advice and accept nothing which is not based on facts, and that we throw his eight year budget, with all its presumptions, into the waste basket where they belong.

If we want to find out about living conditions in Canada, let us ask the man who lives there. Does he shout about Canada like this advocate of