

Veterans Act before us, and also the Newfoundland act. This I know very little about, except I feel sure that if the officials of the Great War Veterans' Association were questioned on the difference between the benefits from Canada compared with those from Newfoundland, they would agree that the Canadian war veterans' agreement is at least 70% better than the present Newfoundland agreement.

Mr. Ryan Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Starkes has asked his question to any of those veterans about that, and got an answer from them?

Mr. Starkes Yes.

Mr. Ryan What was the answer, please?

Mr. Starkes 70% different.

Mr. Ryan 70% different.

Mr. Cashin No, no, no. Did you ask Mr. Marshall the president or chairman of the Great War Veterans' Association, or did you listen to his address over the radio with regard to that matter? Did you?

Mr. Starkes I was talking to an official of the Great War Veterans'...

Mr. Cashin I'm thinking now of the President.

Mr. Chairman Major Cashin, it's out of order.

Mr. Starkes I was told one instance, Mr. Chairman, that I'm very much interested in. Take a man who returns from the war after 19 months, and during that time, through no fault of his own, he fails to make application for assistance in the manner of children. Under the Newfoundland act he is not entitled to anything, except the Great War Veterans' Association and the Women's Patriotic Association would take it up with the government and do their best to get something. I know for a fact that in some cases the returns they received were nothing except dole, which is facing the unemployed civilians. That is how the Newfoundland returned man is treated.

It is the overall picture that counts. Making our deductions, not on opinions or hearsay, but wherever possible on statistics, is confederation a good thing for the country or is it not? In arriving at our conclusion, we must be guided by history. It is over 450 years since this country was discovered. It's only 80 years since confederation took place in Canada. Why has Canada developed into a large industrial nation while we have not made the same progress? The position should be reversed, considering that Canada was

discovered a very long time after this country. Average standard of wages. Isn't there a higher average standard of wages in Canada than in Newfoundland? Hasn't the dollar more purchasing power in the Dominion of Canada than in Newfoundland? Forget about hidden taxes and figments of the imagination. There is not one here but will admit that a dollar has at least 25% more value in the Dominion of Canada. You can be assured that if prices soar in Canada they will be much higher here in a country that has to import about 80% of its requirements. There's a book here, Mr. Chairman, that costs 25 cents. Some member said that you could get all the information you want in this book in connection with taxes, I think 120-odd taxes on shoes, 150 or 160 taxes on something else, and so forth. Mr. Chairman, we've been paying that all our lifetime. Under union with Canada we would have to pay in no more; and we wouldn't have to pay any duty.

Major Cashin was a member of the government of Mr. W.S. Monroe, who tried to sell our Labrador to the province of Quebec for \$15 million. Now there are some who say that Duplessis is scheming to take it away from us. It is good to know that some realise the value of this territory today, but he should know that it is remotely impossible for Quebec or other provinces getting out territory. The tendency is to overestimate the power of 3.5 million French Canadians. Only in the Province of Quebec do French Canadians have a majority of the population.

Municipal taxes. Those who state that in the event of confederation the property tax will be enforced on fishermen's motor boats, stages, houses, etc., are not stating facts. As far as Newfoundland is concerned, after confederation no property tax will be imposed. Mr. Chairman, all down through my life I've often heard the story that if we went in confederation with Canada, the glass in our windows would be taxed, our motor boats, fishing lines, and everything else would be taxed to the limit. If we turn to the British North America Act, clause 125, it states: "No land or property belonging to Canada or any province shall be liable to taxation." Now that's what we have got to go by — with the exception of municipal taxes, municipal councils and outport town councils. There is not one act of the Government of Canada or the provinces that states that