

Mr. MacDonald To begin with, I did not say Mr. Hollett said it. I said it was made here in this Convention. If Mr. Hollett thinks the hat fits, he will have to wear it.

Mr. Smallwood He will wear it.

Mr. MacDonald I was sitting in the chair alongside of Mr. Hollett.

Mr. Hollett Then you were referring to me?

Mr. Smallwood The whole country heard it.

Mr. Chairman I hope at this stage members will please remember that time is of the essence. We are trying to get through a very important item of business and we have very little time left, and interjections and interruptions of this sort are causing a waste of time. I must ask members to strictly adhere to the rules.

Mr. MacDonald Do you wish me to go on?

Mr. Chairman Mr. Hollett rose to a question of privilege. He wanted his right defined in connection with a statement. He was perfectly in order in drawing my attention to it. He did not interrupt. He rose to a point of privilege.

Mr. MacDonald There are many other points I could make to show why federal union is my preference; but they have already been discussed in the Convention and it would be only repetition to carry them further. In general, Mr. Chairman, I believe that federal union with Canada will be a solution of a great number of our difficulties. We will be joining a growing nation, and with it we will grow. On our own, we will possibly find ourselves within a very few years back to where we were in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mr. Chairman, as this is probably the last time I will have the privilege of addressing this Convention, I take this opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure to me to attend this Convention. I have learned a good deal, and I agree with Major Cashin that friendships have been formed which will last as long as life itself, and which will undoubtedly have a good effect on the country at large in the days that are ahead. Before I resume my seat, may I personally express my humble, but none the less sincere appreciation of the manner in which you, sir, have conducted the proceedings of this Convention since you were appointed as our Chairman. It has not been an easy task, but you have, in my opinion, been strictly impartial in your many rulings. You have kept us strictly to the rules of procedure and the terms of reference as laid down, and you were

always ready to guide and instruct us in every way possible; and I feel sure, sir, that you have earned the respect and admiration of the members of this National Convention.

[The Convention adjourned until 8 pm]

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, before us today we have a job which now and again crops up in our history. Perhaps I may be pardoned if I were to quote Mark Twain, the great American humourist, who when writing about King Arthur's court, said of the knights in search of the Holy Grail, "Every now and again the boys went agrailing." Again our boys have gone agrailing. While I know it is not the holy vessel, yet to my mind it is something just as elusive — to better your condition by throwing your troubles upon the shoulders of a second power or person. In my opinion, if a person or nation cannot solve their own problems, how can a second person or power do that, when they have the same troubles themselves? There are aspects of this search which, if I may quote a learned jurist, "To me there is an odour in the state of Denmark."

During the debate there were statements made either through ignorance or a wish to deceive the people, for instance the statement of Mr. Smallwood and Mr. Ashbourne that Newfoundland once in confederation could get out was a deliberate falsehood. If they knew no more about it than that, they should have left it deliberately alone. For we will turn back the pages of history. The BNA Act "gave all legislative power to the federal government except over matters expressly reserved to the provinces. Power to levy any kind of taxes, to make any and every regulation of commerce, of money, and banking and to disallow any provincial statute it proposed to disallow." The result of this, nothing was clear in intent, nothing has proven more fallacious in its issue. The lean kind were to eat up the fat. The feeble provinces of 1867, apparently denuded of revenue, and devoid of all but the meager and necessary, were to be changed by altered circumstances and by judicial interpretation into the autonomous units of 70 years later, a sort of heptarchy (or a country ruled by different governments) whose members control the public domain, and vast revenues from sources unknown at confederation. Now, all that was to come later. The provinces felt themselves overshadowed by the Dominion, and no longer in