

be part and parcel of the terms to confederation? Are we going to allow this divorce question to come in, to sow the seeds of unrest amongst us? I hope not. We are a happy and contented people. We want to remain happy, and I pray to God we will. I would like to ask Mr. Smallwood, when the time comes in his rebuttal, if he would turn back to the Black Books, part 2, appendix 4, and explain something about marriage and divorce. If he does I'll have no more to say on this matter. Will you do that?

Mr. Smallwood Yes.

Mr. Northcott Thank you. Mr. Chairman, after studying the Grey Book and the Black Books, and after many weeks of listening attentively and patiently, I find the issue of confederation becoming more and more bewildering, conflicting, and confusing. And I fear that this can be said of many people in our island home today. They haven't as yet got a clear picture. However, much credit is due to Mr. Hollett, Mr. Fogwill and Major Cashin, for their great pains in trying to reveal the truth, as they saw it, regarding taxation and confederation. Sir, our people must be enlightened on this very important matter. The people want to know the whole truth and the truth shall make them free. You cannot light a candle and put it under a bushel, for if you do, you cannot get a very effective light. This can be applied to our people. They are still groping and wandering around in darkness over the issue of confederation and taxation. Sir, whatever be the form of government, we shall still have to pay taxes. But the vital and burning question now being asked is, are the federal, provincial and town council taxes, all three combined, more than the taxes now being paid under Commission of Government? This is what the country is asking, and is demanding of us as members of the National Convention. We must in all honesty and sincerity give the answer to the best of our knowledge and ability. We must be honest with ourselves and the people and explain every note and angle of taxation. Then, and only then, can the people have a clearer picture of the proposed terms of union with Canada. We cannot, we dare not, allow ourselves to make a leap in the dark.... There must be nothing hid, not one single iota. There can be no misunderstanding then, and everything shall and will be open and above board; and we will have fulfilled our tasks. We then can leave the

whole matter in the hands of the people, and make no mistake about it, they will decide. In closing, the terms of confederation are not in my opinion very attractive or encouraging, especially when one has to borrow to pay one's budget. But be that as it may, as with all these things, let the facts be known to the country, and may the great Master of all guide and direct our people when the time comes to decide.

Mr. Starkes Mr. Chairman, this Convention has been dubbed as a glorified debating society. To my mind I think that's wrong, because so far it seems that everybody is on one side, the negative. I think I'll speak from the affirmative side, because it makes it more interesting to the people of this country. It's not my intention to go into a long speech about taxation, federal, provincial, or municipal. In my opinion this House is already familiar with all forms of taxes, and the people will remember the taxes they had to pay under responsible government as well as those under the present form of government. I do not think that we are concerned with one member being interested in the moving picture business and the amusement tax in Lewisporte in particular. I am not concerned if any one member is doing business for an outport or a junk dealer in Montreal, whether he is selling merchandise to the Newfoundland shopkeepers or selling ships and coals to the Newfoundland Railway. If a member feels obligated to repay money, then let him pay it, and he will have the admiration of all concerned. But why all this bickering and filibustering at a cost of \$1,000 day? We have heard all about our country being sold down the St. Lawrence over and over again. For two years over the radio, every Saturday night, how did we miss the introduction of that beautiful record, the Banks of Newfoundland?

Mr. Cashin They're going to have a maple leaf if you have anything to do with it.

Mr. Starkes Mr. Chairman, when Major Cashin was speaking, I was ruled out of order by interrupting, you made a ruling ...

Mr. Chairman Will members not interrupt unless they're rising to a point of order.

Mr. Starkes Page 19 of the BNA Act, you'll see the London resolutions adopted at the conference of delegates from the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They all visited the Westminster Palace Hotel in December, 1866.