

devoted the major part of his time to a straightforward and reasoned effort to allay fears about heavy local taxation which the opponents of Confederation have recently been promoting with increasing insistence. He argued very convincingly that no Newfoundlander need worry about property taxes and other taxes of this kind unless there should be a town Council in his particular area which decides that such taxes are needed to provide local services. Mr. Smallwood also briefly renewed his attack on the economic union scheme by again demonstrating that it would be impossible to finance the Newfoundland Government unless property taxes out of all proportion to the real situation were resorted to. He said that about twenty million dollars would have to be raised in this way. He declared that the opponents of Confederation, in raising the bogey of taxation, are deliberately trying to draw the voters' attention away from the perils of a return to Responsible Government. In this, the main part of his speech, Mr. Smallwood once again showed his extraordinary capacity to appeal in a direct and simple manner to the common sense of the average person. In the latter part of his address, he demonstrated his equal skill as an uninhibited propagandist. He heaped scorn upon the advocates of Responsible Government for a number of obvious lies and fantastic claims in which they had indulged in the course of the campaign, quietly slipping in, along with the others, the Responsible Government claims about the effect which Confederation would have on the Fisheries Board and on the market for salt cod. The Responsible Government assertions in this connection have certainly been exaggerated, but Mr. Smallwood was drawing a bit of a long bow when he dismissed them so summarily in this speech.

3. Mr. Smallwood then went on to ridicule the current efforts of Responsible Government spokesmen to besmirch the character and motives of those prominent citizens who have recently come forward and supported Confederation. He said that if it were not for these mendacious tactics many more highly respected members of the community would by now have made their views known publicly.

4. Turning his own part in the Confederation movement to good account, Mr. Smallwood declared that he had been threatened with hanging, knifing, and shooting; that he had been twice attacked bodily — once by Major Cashin at the meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Convention, and once after a Confederate rally at the C.L.B. Armouries — and that his supporters have forced him to have a bodyguard with him whenever he appears in public. He added that the police have had to place a guard outside his house at night. He declared that he is the object of bitter hatred on the part of certain people because he stands in the way of their getting the government into their hands again.

5. Mr. Smallwood concluded with a highly optimistic forecast of the vote. He said that he knows full well that the forecast he made before June 3rd was proved wrong, but that the reason for his error was that he did not then realize what Confederation was up against. With full knowledge of the situation, he now predicts that Confederation will get thirty thousand more votes this time than last time, and that Responsible Government will get about five thousand less. He supported this statement by declaring with conviction that ninety-nine out of one hundred of the Commission supporters will vote for Confederation; that thousands of Responsible Government supporters have switched to this form of government; and that five-thousand people who did not vote last time in what he