

Newfoundland would have been alienated. The two most serious occasions that that happened were in 1857 and 1874.

In 1857 France and Britain ganged up and put through an agreement without reference to the government of Newfoundland. Newfoundlanders had a government at that time just as Canada had a government. Newfoundlanders, to a man, to a woman, rebelled. Delegations were sent to England. They appeared before the British Parliament. Newfoundland emissaries travelled all over Britain enlisting the support of the British people. Here was this small colony with fewer than 200,000 people standing up to the two most powerful countries in the world at that time—Russia and Germany had not reached the point where they could compete with France and Britain. That small group of Newfoundlanders, largely by enlisting public support in Britain, forced England and France to capitulate as far as the legislation they had drawn up was concerned.

A similar event took place in 1874. I believe that some of the older members of this chamber, particularly Senators Denis and Flynn—neither of whom is in the chamber at this moment—would be interested in this. In the 1770s, a great lobster fishery developed around the shores of Newfoundland. It had not been developed previously because they had no means of preserving it, but by 1770 they had developed a technique which enabled them to process lobster, and Newfoundland lobster fishing rapidly became one of the leading fisheries in North America and the French claimed a monopoly on part of it.

France and England were “palsy-walsy” once more. Britain supported France and once again there was a complete eruption in Newfoundland headed by a Newfoundland fishing businessman by the name of James Baird whose grandson sat in this chamber as a senator, Senator Alex Baird, commonly known as Sandy, a famous World War I hero. James Baird headed the fight against Britain and France and appealed to the supreme courts in Newfoundland and Britain on two major matters. He won his argument in both instances, thereby forcing Britain and France once again to come to their knees so far as the Newfoundland fishery was concerned.

Although they are small in numbers, one has to be careful not to underestimate the people of Newfoundland in these matters. A couple of weeks ago, when the hullabaloo developed about the agreement between France and Britain, I could not help but think of how remarkably similar this situation is to what happened back in the previous century. As Senator MacEachen says, what is happening today is a disappointment. He also said the obvious, that is, that something must be done. But what? As I say, I do not know. Certainly, we cannot go on like this with Newfoundland forever getting the short end of the stick. I do not know what the answer is, nor do I pretend to. However, we have to do something.

• (1610)

For the sake of a little bit of history, I would like to mention a personal experience. In the years 1965 and 1966, I accompanied the then Premier of Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood, to Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Lester Pearson. To me

meeting this man was utterly fascinating. Only the three of us were present over in what was my first visit to the East Block, which was where the Prime Minister's Office then was. The matter under discussion was offshore oil resources. During those discussions Prime Minister Pearson made an informal offer or suggestion to us. After getting the advice of many leading people of one kind or another in the oil business, the result, to my disappointment, was that the Prime Minister's offer, which he was prepared to take back to his colleagues and eventually to Parliament, was not accepted. I cannot help but think that it was perhaps one of the most serious omissions on our part, although we thought then that our course of action was for the best.

Honourable senators, I have other things to say, but since we have other business and if no one would like to speak right now, I would like to move the adjournment, if that is agreeable.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I do not wish to close the debate at this point, but I would like to make a comment if I may. Perhaps I could ask a question of Senator Rowe or of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

It was my hope—and like the game show “Jeopardy” I will frame it in the form of a question in a few minutes—that we would be able to conclude the second reading debate on this bill this afternoon and that, if honourable senators opposite wished the legislation to go to committee, we would arrange a meeting of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to have another, I hope short, look at the bill. The legislation has been before the Energy Committee, as I said earlier, on two different occasions and on our order paper at two different stages of its being. I had hoped to speak briefly on the bill this afternoon thereby finishing second reading. Of course, if other senators wish to take the adjournment, there is not a great deal that I would want to do to stop the debate.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I had suggested—in fact, “insisted” would be a better word—to the Deputy Leader of the Government that this bill go back to committee for further study, because it has been some time since that committee studied the legislation and because there was some feeling that the committee had not placed sufficient emphasis on witnesses from the east coast. However, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate advised me today that he would not be insisting that the bill be sent to committee. So unless some other senator insists on the legislation going to committee, it seems to me that we will be able to skip that stage.

Senator Doody: Perhaps I could ask a question of Senator Rowe. I know that I am on very shaky ground here because this bill has been in progress in the other place for what appears to be an interminable period of time. In any event, it is here and I have been asked by the Government of Newfoundland to do what I can to move it along. Last week an announcement involving \$66.6 million was made down there. Most of this money would be made available to the Province of Newfoundland to cover moneys which they, in turn, paid out