

of Labrador. However, in spite of all this we decided by the democratic process to join the Canadian confederation and now that we have joined we want to be good Canadians—and we do appreciate the ready way you opened your door to us, the stray sheep of the British North American flock.

For myself, I have always realized the futility of standing alone and trying to compete with the other British communities that had pooled their resources for the common good. But my interest in the confederate idea goes much deeper than that, because I happen to be married to the granddaughter of one of the Fathers of Confederation, the late Sir Frederick Carter, who with the late Sir Ambrose Shea represented Newfoundland at that historic meeting of provincial leaders out of which confederation was born. You can see them in the background of that famous painting of the Fathers of Confederation that hangs in this building. My family is proud of its association with the birth of this nation. It is true that when Sir Frederick put the idea of Confederation before the Newfoundland people in the election of 1869, they saw fit to reject it. His failure in that respect, though, was in no way due to lack of political skill in the presentation of his case, but rather to the fact that as a statesman he was about eighty years ahead of his time. I might add that his failure to bring Newfoundland into confederation perceptibly shortened his days. He died a bitterly disappointed man.

Although I am a newcomer to this Senate, I am by no means a newcomer to Canada. In my day I have visited nearly every province in the dominion, and I have thus had the advantage of seeing this country and its people through the unbiased eyes of a stranger. What I have seen has convinced me that here in this vast and bountiful land lies the future of our British kind. I realize that in a world torn apart by strange isms Canada needs men of tolerance and social vision to guide her through the period of upheaval. I am convinced that today Canada

has men of such calibre at the head of the state; and I might say, if you will allow me, that the Right Honourable the Prime Minister has gained the respect and confidence of free men everywhere.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Baird:** I have heard that here in Canada, as in most countries, there are groups of persons who have fallen so low as to obey the orders of the head of a foreign state, who would tear apart the very foundation of our western civilization and supplant it with paganism and a new form of human slavery whereby the individual must surrender to the state all the personal rights and liberties that have accrued to him through a thousand years of social evolution. I have every confidence that the good sense of the Canadian people will enable them to hold fast to the sheet anchor of their Christianity, and maintain their confidence in an economic system that returns to each a fair share of the wealth produced and allows all men to be free within the limits of civilized conduct.

I assure you that there are no communists in Newfoundland. At least, I have never met any. Furthermore, I do not believe that there ever will be one. When our forefathers came to our island and built a nest in the rock, they were rich in their belief in Divine Providence. They had very little else to sustain them in their battle for survival. But they did survive, and we who have inherited their stony acres have also fallen heir to their simple faith in God and their desire to be free men in a free land.

These, honourable senators, are the qualities of mind which our forefathers brought with them across the sea, and which make up our spiritual contribution to the life of this nation of Canada.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Burchill the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.