

reduce their tariffs immediately and substantially; second, that Great Britain should reduce her cost of production by shifting some portion of her internal taxation to fall upon land values, and third, Canada—and her two great associates as well—should abolish foreign currency controls and allow a free market to determine from time to time the rate of exchange. Thus, by liberal policies, may Canada's economy be saved from disaster and Britain may recover the position of leadership in the world of trade and finance, which she occupied so honourably in former years.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. A. B. Baird: Honourable senators, my first duty today probably gives me the greatest pleasure—that of joining with past speakers in extending my heartiest congratulations to the Speaker of this august body. Some of us younger members have not had the privilege of being associated with you before, sir, but we have already been so impressed by your dignity and tolerance that we have certainly learned to respect you.

To previous speakers, for their many kind references to us, who are junior members, I should like to extend my profound gratitude, and to one very far western member especially, who has been a "tower of strength" in my hours of loneliness, I tender my most sincere thanks. While he did bring me down and show me the train of tomorrow, he also kept me from taking it today. May I also congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. While I regret that I was unable to follow the speech of the honourable senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Godbout), owing to my limited knowledge of the French language, still what I could follow was most inspiring.

Honourable senators, as you know, I am a newcomer to this Senate of Canada. That being so, I feel that it is in order for me to make a few brief remarks by way of introducing myself and the new province that I have the honour to represent. As everyone knows, it has taken Newfoundland's representatives a long time to get here; as a matter of fact, we are some eighty years late. As to their contribution to the future of this nation, I can only tell you that in the past they met the problems of existence with courage and perseverance, and that now, being in the wider field of opportunity that union affords, they are looking to the future with new hope, and a firm desire to pull their weight in this federation of British communities.

In 1869, when the issue of Confederation was first put before the Newfoundland people,

they decided to continue seeking their fortune alone rather than in partnership with the rest of British North America. That their decision was wise or otherwise is not for me to say. I do not propose to pass judgment upon them. I do suggest, however, that having chosen to go their way alone, the record of their achievement in the face of bitter odds is not one to be ashamed.

Although we may have lagged behind the rest of North America, we have, when all things are taken into account, made substantial progress during the past eighty years. We do feel proud that when we finally came into the Canadian federation, we came as a solvent community with worth-while things to share. I refer to our fisheries, our forests, and our developed and proven mineral wealth. These and other resources of lesser value make up our material contribution to this partnership. But there is yet another contribution—one which is no less important for being abstract or spiritual; we bring to this nation of Canada three hundred and thirty thousand new citizens with a Newfoundland background of honesty and human worth.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Baird: When I refer to the gains that Canada has made by union with Newfoundland, I by no means lose sight of the great social and economic benefits that have come to the Newfoundland people through union with Canada. For them the clock of social progress has gained perhaps fifty years in one. Today the children of Newfoundland have a better chance of developing into healthy and useful citizens than they ever had before; today old age is secure in Newfoundland rather than a nightmare of poverty, as it so often was for many of our people; today we have a more equitable system of taxation, and above all, we have a justified confidence in our future progress and development.

As I have said, it has taken Newfoundland's representatives a long time to get here, and the argument over their coming has been long-drawn out and bitter. The most potent argument used against confederation was that by uniting with a larger country we would lose our national identity, and it has long been said in Newfoundland that if a man is not national he is not anything. This feeling of independence and national pride is understandable in a people who were masters of their own destiny for almost a century. Besides, in our case our very way of life tended to develop a spirit of independence, for no man is more the master of his own destiny than the hand trawler on the Grand Banks or the hook and line man on the coast