

able gentlemen from British Columbia prefer it—from Victoria to St. John's. Isolation with all its stultifying consequences has been a strong deterrent to our progress, I dare say this applies to other parts of Canada as well. When isolation is banished individual happiness and a broader culture inevitably follows. Therefore, it is with intense interest that the proposed Trans-Canada highway is visualized by our people. Newfoundland will remain an island, but its insularity will disappear.

I would not be speaking truly if I gave the impression that Newfoundland is going to judge the wisdom of uniting with Canada by the selfish yardstick of what she gets out of the union. Our Newfoundland people have a strong pride, and the last thing they want is to be regarded as a burden on the rest of Canada. It is true that our long night of isolation held us in check and left us, by comparison with some of the other provinces, weak and backward. We cannot as yet offer that contribution to the union which we should like to make, but that will come. We are determined to place ourselves in a position so that we may be able to contribute substantially to the union whose benefits we share.

We have very important natural resources on the island of Newfoundland, and in the vast territory of our Labrador. It has already been made abundantly clear that this new land, comparatively unknown until recent years, contains enormous iron ore deposits, huge forests and tremendous waterpower. It is a virgin land and its potential value is staggering in its concept. We want to see these resources developed for the general good of Canada, as well as for our own prosperity as a province, and we believe that they will be developed.

In addition to the natural resources which exist in the waters around our coasts and in our forests and mines, and in the military advantage of our strategic position, Newfoundland has brought another asset to Canada which, in the long run, may surpass all others—I refer to the people, the Newfoundlanders themselves. Centuries of independent living in a rugged and often forbidding country, where existence has depended upon toil, ingenuity and endurance, have produced a particularly hardy, self-reliant race. They have lived daily with danger on the sea, have endured the harshness of Nature in its season, and have survived the injustice of ancient wrongs. They are today a courageous, imaginative, sensitive and robust people who have learned sympathy through distress, and hospitality through frequent need. Their capacity for sacrifice has been well established, and their loyalty is unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Certainly when Newfoundland became part of Canada these new Canadians, numbering well over a quarter of a million people, brought in themselves a priceless contribution, the value of which only time itself can assess.

Honourable senators, it is a great honour to have a seat in this chamber as a senator of Canada and to participate in this debate; but above all it is a great honour to be a Canadian.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable members, I move the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.