

Public Accounts of Canada and the Report of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1951.

That the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records.

That the committee be authorized to sit during adjournments of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. Vien for an Address in reply thereto.

**Hon. Mr. Peitten** (*Continuing*): Honourable senators, having thrown down all kinds of metaphorical gauntlets yesterday, I think I will be very quiet, dull and prosaic this afternoon.

As Canada moves forward into the second half of the 20th century with a new vigour and dignity to play her role among the free nations of the world in forging a pattern for enduring peace, it will become more apparent to some, whose vision may yet be obscured by prejudice or ignorance, that the act of Newfoundland in joining confederation augmented the jurisdiction of the parliament of this country over the northern half of the North American continent, excepting Alaska, and thus enhanced the national stature of the Dominion.

It has been said before, and bears repeating, that the justly-proud claim to Canadian domain represented in the inscription carved in stone over the entrance to the Peace Tower of these Houses of Parliament—"The wholesome sea is at her gates, Her gates both East and West"—became a reality only when Newfoundland joined confederation on April 1, 1949. Prior to that date Canada deferred to Newfoundland, in the right of the United Kingdom, on all international questions involving the waters of the northwestern Atlantic and the territorial waters of Newfoundland. Today the Government of Canada has the sole authority and responsibility for entering into international discussions and formulating policies in respect of the interests of Canada where other nations are concerned. With Newfoundland in confederation as the tenth province, the Parliament of Canada gained the exclusive right to approve treaty commitments or other international agreements in respect of the territory of Newfoundland, including Labrador, and the territorial waters and international waters adjacent thereto. The physical assets which accrue to Canada with confederation include that vast empire of natural resources, Labrador, with

110,000 square miles of territory, a part of the mainland of Canada contiguous to the province of Quebec and formerly the sovereign territory of Newfoundland; the 42,700 square miles of land which comprise the island of Newfoundland itself, with its 6,000 miles of coastline; the hundreds of thousands of square miles of continental shelf, detached and semi-detached from its shores, which embraces the greatest potential fishery of the world; the vast, almost immeasurable reaches of forest, sustaining the largest pulp and paper operations in the British Commonwealth, only the fringes of which have yet been exploited; the tens of thousands of square miles of rugged glacial terrain only now giving up, through discovery by scientific means, the secrets concealed down through the centuries of hitherto unbelievably mineral resources of iron, pyrite, gypsum, magnetite, asbestos, coal, copper, lead and zinc; the fabulous resources of water power, and many magnificent harbours.

Above and beyond any material benefits in natural resources or in the greater powers vested in the Parliament of Canada which accrue to the Dominion as a result of confederation, is the strength which arises from the 350,000 people who inhabit Newfoundland, becoming thereby citizens of Canada by choice. The most enduring asset of any nation is the rich character, industry and spiritual asset of its people. Here are a people of English, Irish and Scottish descent who not only retain the virtues of their ancestral traits, but have added to them the rich qualities of perseverance, tolerance, adventure and independence which the demands of the country have engraved upon their character. More than one hundred thousand persons in Newfoundland depend directly upon the fisheries for a livelihood; another one hundred thousand depend upon them indirectly for their living. Seventy-five per cent of the total economy of Newfoundland hinges primarily upon the harvests of the sea.

Ever since I gained the honour and distinction of having a seat in this chamber, it has been my privilege to listen to the debates of the honourable senators from various parts of Canada, covering many subjects, and thereby to assimilate and reach an understanding of the diversified and intricate problems relating to the economic and social welfare of the people of this Dominion. Honourable senators, then, will bear with me if I venture to express disappointment over the fact that, in the debates in this chamber and in the House of Commons on questions involving the primary industries of agriculture, fishing, mining and lumber, concern for