

The vote for confederation in St. John's has surprised everybody; an increase of over 2400 votes on the vote in the first referendum. But in addition to the territorial distribution of the confederate vote, it is also well distributed in the different sections of the people. Even many leading Water Street merchants give it public support.

My purpose in writing you in this way is to let you know that in my personal opinion there is only one course for the Canadian authorities, namely, to accept the decision and to ask for a delegation of authorised representatives [to] be appointed, and to state that such a delegation would be received at an early date. So far as you can influence the decision I trust you will do so. Quick decision along with quick action is by far the wisest course.

The objective appreciation we discussed before I left London will be forthcoming, I hope, on Monday the 26th. But I know you appreciate my writing you unofficially. There must be no hesitation on the part of the Canadian authorities. Any sign whatever of hesitation will be fatal. Ends.

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10300-E-40

*Le haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland to
Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 142

St. John's, July 26, 1948

MOST IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following for Pearson from MacKay, Begins: Arrived only this morning and feel that it is essential to remain at least until Tuesday night.

2. My first impression is that the public generally accept vote on July 22nd as final verdict as far as Newfoundland is concerned. The public were urged to do this by an editorial in the *Sunday Herald*, which was a bitter opponent. See immediately following telegram.

3. Met Gordon Higgins at Gander. As you know, he was a bitter opponent but was in thoroughly good temper and seemed disposed to accept the verdict. He said he hoped there were no hard feelings on our part as there were none on his. To my query as to what we should do now, his immediate reaction was that we should go ahead. To a further query as to whether he thought his people would accept this, he replied, perhaps not all immediately, but they would get over it.

4. Regarding telegram of Responsible Government League in this afternoon's press, I doubt if it indicates complete unity among all who voted for Responsible Government. League is only one wing of group supporting Responsible Government. Bridle received tip from one of the confederates that Crosbie was disposed to accept verdict and might come out publicly and would like to be on delegation to Ottawa.

5. Responsible Government League have requested interview with me. I have said that I am here to consult Bridle and quite without authority to say anything