

The Address—Mr. Noseworthy

of Newfoundland favoured confederation; otherwise I find it difficult to understand how members who had supported confederation come into this house with majorities of five thousand, six thousand, seven thousand and as high as more than ten thousand. Coming from constituencies of older Canada many of us would look upon these majorities as pretty safe ones.

I noticed that the hon. member for St. John's West referred to the fact that members here from Newfoundland felt a little timid in this house. As a Newfoundlander myself I want to say to him that no Newfoundlander ever needs to feel timid anywhere with anyone. Let me tell these newly elected members, what they must already know, that Newfoundlanders have made good in this country in the professional field, in industry and in commerce. And I am sure that, now that Newfoundland is a partner in Canada, Newfoundlanders will make equally good in the political field.

It was my pleasure in 1943 to be, I believe, one of the first, if indeed not the first member in the House of Commons to raise the question of confederation of Newfoundland with Canada. Reference to my speech, which appears in volume V of *Hansard* for 1943, at page 4657, indicates that in that speech I argued the case for confederation on the basis of the advantages that would accrue to Canada, and not on those which would accrue to Newfoundland.

Having lived just about half my life in Canada, and considering myself a Canadian, I felt that the strategic position and the potential and undiscovered wealth of Newfoundland, and the adjacent territory of Labrador, would be of great advantage to this country. I have no doubt that confederation has already brought some benefits to Newfoundland. I can well imagine that those family allowance cheques, coming just before the election into the outports of Newfoundland, must have looked like manna from heaven. I am not going to say that those cheques had anything to do with the size of the majorities some members received. Newfoundland stands to profit by many of the measures of social legislation we have enjoyed in Canada for many years, but which Newfoundland was unable economically to provide her people. Let me say to the newly elected members from that island, however, that Newfoundland now becomes the fourth maritime province of Canada. If those hon. members have followed Canadian history they will have learned that the marriage of the maritime provinces with Upper Canada at the time of confederation has not been an entirely happy one. Indeed there have been times when the relationship has been strained.

Especially in view of the fact that we now have a fourth maritime province, I was disappointed when reading the speech from the throne to find that there was no mention of any special consideration to be given to that part of Canada. It is a well-known fact that the maritimes have suffered. I call the attention of the new members from Newfoundland to this point in order that particularly those sitting on the government side of the house may not sit back complacently and think that, because they have now confederation and now have a Liberal government, all will be well. There will be ample opportunity for those members to fight every inch of the way to secure for Newfoundland, along with the other maritime provinces, what may be considered a square deal.

Let me call the attention of the house to some features which are of great importance to the new province. According to figures published by the dominion bureau of statistics the average earnings in 1948 in the then three maritime provinces were much below the average earnings for the whole of Canada. In that year the average male earning for all Canada was \$993; in Nova Scotia the average dropped to \$865, in New Brunswick to \$765, in Prince Edward Island to \$594, with a corresponding drop as compared with the over-all average in respect of the earnings by females.

If one looks at the income of farmers of the maritime provinces one will find that while 10.5 per cent of the farms of Canada are in the three maritime provinces, the income of maritime farmers in 1946 was not the 10.5 per cent to which their population would entitle them. It amounted to only 4.5 per cent of the agricultural income of Canada.

Judged by the number of automobiles owned, the number of telephones in homes, the number of houses with radios and with electric lights and inside water, each of the three older maritime provinces falls far below the average for the whole of Canada. These are just a few of the facts to illustrate the statement I have made that special consideration must be given, particularly in view of the new province having been added. If the Liberal party as such has no policy for the maritime provinces I would suggest that it look up the policy adopted by the C.C.F. party at its Winnipeg convention in 1948.

Mr. Cruickshank: What about the Regina convention?

Mr. Noseworthy: Never mind about that; I will come to it later. I do not believe the Liberal party should have any hesitancy in adopting a few planks offered by the C.C.F. party. It has adopted many of them over the