

sides. We, as representatives of Newfoundland, in the course of our examination and study of the question of Union and its implications to Newfoundland at our meetings during the past few weeks, have received great assistance from the reports of these discussions and, on behalf of the delegation which I lead, I pay tribute to those who have so fully clarified the issue.

At the first meeting between delegates of the National Convention and representatives of the Government of Canada the Right Honourable the Prime Minister remarked:

"It might be well were we to realize, at the outset, that however close the association of our two countries may be, and however much our two peoples may have in common, union is not a course to be undertaken lightly by either side. It would involve, for both Newfoundland and Canada, far reaching administrative and economic changes. For each of our peoples it would involve some alteration in their traditional outlook".

CHANGES INVOLVED

The members of the Newfoundland delegation are deeply conscious of the changes involved for their country. When it is considered that a complete change for our people, constitutionally, administratively, and economically, will be involved in adjusting themselves to a new system, it will be realized how properly the words of the Prime Minister apply in the case of Newfoundland. A considerable change in the traditional outlook of the people will also be involved. Since 1867 great developments have taken place in both of our countries, and more complex problems arise for adjustment in the arrangements for a union which will involve such fundamental alterations in the case of Newfoundland. With understanding on both sides, however, these problems should present little difficulty.

In October, 1864, there was held at Quebec one of the most important conferences in history. There the great federation was approved by representatives of the colonies, including Newfoundland, and the majority proceeded to form the Union. Again in October representatives of Newfoundland have come to carry on discussions and to settle terms which will, we hope, be mutually acceptable and prove to be mutually advantageous to both countries. It appears that the great vision of the Fathers of Confederation of a unified Canada extending from

the United States of America far into the north and from the Pacific Ocean far into the waters of the Atlantic is about to be fully realized. I am sure that these considerations will be present in our minds and I feel confident that as a result of these discussions Newfoundland and her people will find a happy place in this Federation.

And finally, Sir, I renew my expression of appreciation of the Newfoundland representatives to you, the members of your Government and the people of Canada.

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INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

The General Council of the International Refugee Organization met for the first time in Geneva from September 13 to September 25. In August of this year the I.R.O. came into legal existence as a specialized agency of the United Nations following the deposit with the Secretary-General of ratifications of the I.R.O. Constitution by the necessary number of states.

The essential business of this First Session of the General Council of I.R.O. was to consider the most effective means of re-establishing either in Europe or abroad some 800,000 refugees between now and June 30, 1950 when the Mandate of the I.R.O. will come to an end. During the course of the recent session, reports were presented announcing the re-establishment of 256,000 displaced persons either in their former homes or elsewhere since the first of July, 1947. The General Council elected Mr. William Hallam Tuck of the United States as Director-General of the Organization. Mr. Tuck has served as Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for I.R.O. since July of 1947.

For the maintenance and re-establishment of refugees during the next two years of

I.R.O.'s existence a budget was approved calling for an expenditure of \$309,636,270 (U.S. dollars). The General Council also passed a resolution appealing to Governments throughout the world to take within their countries the maximum possible number of refugees. The General Council urged particularly that governments of states admitting refugees be prepared to take family groups, former members of the learned, scientific, and artistic professions, together with a fair share of those refugees who will not be able to maintain themselves.

The General Council decided that no new refugees would be accepted for admission into refugee camps except for those who would experience severe hardship if denied the maintenance and care of the Organization. The General Council came to the conclusion also that the I.R.O. was unable at the present time to offer any material aid to Arab refugees in the Near East, because of the very severe financial limitations under which I.R.O. was working and because of the immediate responsibility of I.R.O. to refugees still established in camps in Europe. Because of these same limitations, the General Council