

For Confederation .....	75,138
For Responsible Gov't .....	70,473
Majority .....	4,665

This represented 14 of the 25 districts complete. For example, only about 1,000 votes were in from Labrador where it is anticipated that about 5,000 would be cast, most of them for Confederation.

3. Mr. Smallwood and other members of the Confederate Party had expressed their concern to Mr. Bridle over press reports which have appeared today in St. John's papers, expressing some doubt about the Canadian attitude. Mr. Bridle was advised to say that the Canadian Government could make no decision in advance of the plebiscite and that it was unlikely that it could make any decision until it received an official return which was not anticipated before some time next week.

4. Mr. McEvoy telephoned Mr. MacKay late this morning also expressing great concern and saying that he and the group who had turned out to support Confederation would be "very badly out on a limb" should the Canadian Government turn Newfoundland down after a majority such as appeared to be in prospect.

5. I enclose a copy of telegram No. 138 from Mr. Bridle summarizing the press statement referred to.

L. B. P[EARSON]

634.

2828-40

*Le haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve au  
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures<sup>74</sup>*

*Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland to  
Secretary of State for External Affairs<sup>74</sup>*

TELEGRAM 139

St. John's, July 23, 1948

My telegram No. 137 of July 23rd, referendum returns.

1. Standing at six p.m. today when last release for the day was issued was Confederation 75,718, Responsible Government 70,733.

2. Complete returns have been received from fourteen districts. Only preliminary returns have been received from Labrador where the vote is expected to be considerably larger than last time because of the presence of fishermen on the coast. I will send a more complete analysis of the vote when the returns are more nearly final.

<sup>74</sup>Ce télégramme fut signalé au Premier ministre.

<sup>74</sup>This telegram was referred to the Prime Minister.