

FOREWORD BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In the twenty-five years since Newfoundland joined Canada the newest Canadian province has found a special place in the hearts of Canadians. Indeed, to young people in many parts of the country Newfoundland may seem always to have been a part of Canada. Of course, Newfoundlanders, conscious of their own long and colourful history, know better. Yet even they, like all Canadians inside or outside Newfoundland, may wish to learn more about the events which led up to federation in 1949.

This booklet should help to meet that need. The essential facts are already a matter of public record but the booklet adds a new dimension, being based on unpublished documents in the archives of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa; they show how the Newfoundland question was handled by the Canadian Government in the 1945-49 period, and they depict events in Newfoundland at that time as reported by Canada's High Commissioner there. At the same time the booklet, which has been written by a distinguished independent author and journalist, possesses a high degree of objectivity.

The Department of External Affairs has also brought out a volume of documents on Newfoundland's actual relations with Canada in the 1935-49 period, and a second volume of documents which will show how confederation was brought about will be published shortly. This latter volume will cover in detail the events more summarily related in this booklet.

These steps were initiated by my predecessor, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, who took part in the negotiations leading up to confederation. They are being taken as one means of honouring Newfoundland in this year which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the union of Newfoundland and Canada. This event not only rounded Canada out geographically; it also brought into Canada the Newfoundland people with (in the Prime Minister's words on April 1st last) "their rich traditions, their centuries-old distinctive culture, their strong, independent spirit and their many talents".