

tion. The Confederates told me that a committee of Catholic laymen who were active supporters of Confederation interviewed the Bishop, who told them that if they felt Confederation was best for the country, it was their duty to support it. I am told that at least three priests on the west coast were active workers for Confederation and that one presided at Confederation meetings and "heckled" at Responsible Government meetings.

(4) My impression is that the Catholic voters in Newfoundland will, however, accept Confederation without much protest, and that there would not be a permanent split in Newfoundland politics along sectarian lines. Last Sunday three priests in the Avalon Peninsula, who formerly preached against Confederation are said by the Confederates to have publicly urged their people to accept the verdict; a number of Confederates intimated that many Catholics in the Avalon Peninsula, although voting for Responsible Government, were secretly glad that Confederation had won.

(5) The position taken by the hierarchy in St. John's had an unfortunate effect in stirring up the Orangemen who conducted a whispering campaign and appear to have turned out to a man to support Confederation, especially in the second referendum. It is difficult to say how far this affected the vote — Bradley thought it won for Confederation in Bonavista which had in the first referendum a plurality for Responsible Government; Sir Edward Emerson, a Roman Catholic, thought it had no substantial effect anywhere; Professor Fraser, also a Roman Catholic, declined to give any opinion on how it had influenced the vote but thought it undoubtedly accentuated sectarian issue.

(6) In the second referendum a considerable split developed among St. John's business men, as witness the number who publicly supported Confederation. The fresh fish trade are said to be solid for Confederation. Mr. Clyde Lake, who controls the largest exporting firm in salt fish, publicly supported and helped finance the Confederation group. Mr. Herbert Brooks, of Harvey and Company, said that several St. John's merchants were coming around to the opinion that children's allowances and old-age pensions would be beneficial to merchandising.

(B) CONCLUSIONS REGARDING POLICY

(1) A decision to advise Newfoundland that the Canadian Government, although appreciating the size of the vote, thinks that, in view of the decision, Responsible Government should first be restored, would in my judgment postpone Confederation indefinitely and perhaps for ever. The Confederate leaders would feel they had been "double-crossed" and supporters generally that they had been rebuffed. Although Confederation has won in eighteen out of twenty-five districts, there could be no assurance that the Confederate party would win these districts in a subsequent election. For the time being the Newfoundland people are "fed up" with politics and especially with voting. If an election for a responsible government were now held, many present supporters of Confederation would probably not turn out, others might tend to vote for the opponents if they promised to go ahead with economic union with the United States, and some at least of the leaders would quit, if not turn to the other side. In my judgment Canada would lose many more friends than it would gain by a policy of calling for responsible government first.