

4. Today's *Evening Telegram* also published the following official statement by the Commission of Government:

"(1) At the invitation of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner for Justice visited London a few weeks ago to discuss the steps to be taken for speedy establishment of the form of Government decided upon as a result of the poll in the national referendum held on July 22nd.

(2) No action could, of course, be taken until the wishes of the people had been ascertained and, to avoid influencing in any way the result of the poll, the issue of a public statement respecting the conclusions reached at the discussions was deferred until the poll had been taken.

(3) As the result of the voting in a number of the districts is still awaited, it is not possible to make a full statement at this time. The United Kingdom Government and the Canadian Government are being kept fully informed of the results of the poll and a further statement will be made as soon as practicable."

639.

2828-40

*Le haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*⁷⁷

*Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland to
Secretary of State for External Affairs*⁷⁷

DESPATCH 361

St. John's, July 24, 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 139 of July 23rd and earlier reports on the outcome of the National Referendum.

2. Of the twenty-five electoral districts nineteen have now declared their returns. Reports from the remainder will likely be complete in a day or two, with the exception of Labrador which may not complete its returns for some little time. Altogether there are probably between 2,000 and 3,000 votes outstanding at the moment.

3. The votes so far reported are as follows:

For Confederation with Canada	76,013
For Responsible Government as it existed in 1933	70,849

At the present time Confederation has a lead of more than 5,000 votes. It is almost certain to secure some two-thirds of the votes outstanding, and it may be expected that the final count will show a majority for Confederation of between 6,000 and 7,000 votes. Confederation has received 51.7% of the votes so far reported and will probably obtain something over 52% in the final result.

4. It looks as though almost 150,000 people voted as compared with 155,000 last time. The total number of eligible voters is probably slightly higher than it

⁷⁷Cette dépêche fut signalée au Premier ministre.

⁷⁷This despatch was referred to the Prime Minister.