

A report in *L'Action Catholique* (July 26th) quotes Mayor Camillien Houde of Montreal as warning French-Canadians against the annexation of Newfoundland which is designed to reduce their numerical strength in the country and eventually submerge them.

*Le Soleil* states that in spite of the rather weak majority in favour of Confederation, Newfoundland is bound to become part of Canada. Had it not been for air and sea assistance from Canada and the United States, this Gibraltar of the new world would have fallen into enemy hands during the last war.

These considerations might not affect the islanders, but they carry weight in British and International Councils. The annexation of Newfoundland might induce France to cede to Canada the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Eventually other colonial problems of a similar nature concerning British possessions in American waters will be solved in the same way.

*La Patrie* commends the Canadian Government for its impartial attitude on the Referendum. We should not interfere in this matter because the problems involved cannot be settled by a simple majority vote. The whole future of the island colony is at stake. If it becomes Canada's tenth province it will not be able to secede. We are not offering union to Newfoundland as an experiment, but as a permanent solution. Let the people decide for themselves. The only clear indication to come out of the Plebiscite is that they are still undecided.

*Le Droit* claims that it is up to the Canadian Government to take a final decision on the future of Newfoundland. Although the balance of the vote is leaning on the side of Confederation, Canada is bound as a democracy to abide by the decision of the majority. Furthermore it will probably be subjected to British pressure which it so seldom resists. The members which Newfoundland as a tenth province will send to Ottawa will offset the increase in Parliamentary representation allotted to Quebec by the recent redistribution.

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

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

TELEGRAM 147

St. John's, July 28, 1948

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following for MacKay from Bridle, Begins: I have talked to Crosbie. He is obviously bitterly disappointed by failure of an effort into which he has put so much. I am still of opinion, however, that information about his intentions in your telegram No. 142 of July 26th to Pearson is well founded. The main point which Crosbie emphasized was that further postponement of an announcement by the Canadian Government of its intention to proceed with Con-