

*Newfoundland*

My mind goes back to July 1, 1916, when Newfoundland, on that historic occasion at the opening of the battle of the Somme, wrote its name on the records of valor for all time to come. In the intervening years, as the Prime Minister has said, all of us have enjoyed something of the fervour, the strength, the character and the frankness of the Newfoundlander.

Others had a dream of confederation with Newfoundland. Sir John A. Macdonald, Georges-Étienne Cartier and George Brown strove to bring it about. The representatives for Newfoundland at the conference in Quebec in 1864 were Frederick Carter, afterwards Sir Frederick, and Ambrose Shea, afterwards Sir Ambrose Shea. They strove to bring about confederation, but in consequence of an election campaign in 1869 their hopes and those of the rest of Canada for the entry of Newfoundland into confederation were rendered of no avail.

Canada earned much with the entry of Newfoundland. I think I can do no better than to quote from one whom I have always regarded as Canada's greatest poet, a Newfoundlander, E. J. Pratt. I was able to obtain this quotation only a moment ago. He said of Newfoundland:

This is their culture, this—their master passion  
Of giving shelter and of sharing bread,  
Of answering rocket signals in the fashion  
Of losing life to save it. In the spread  
Of time—the Gilbert-Grenfell-Bartlett span—  
The headlines cannot dim their daily story,  
Nor calls like London! Gander! Teheran!  
Outplay the drama of the sled and dory.

In the modern world but still maintaining the traditions of the past I join with the Prime Minister in saying it was good for Canada to have the Dominion of Canada finally completed in accordance with the hopes of the Fathers of Confederation. God bless Newfoundland.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, one of the joys of our parliamentary system is to listen to the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) agreeing with the right hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. Trudeau).

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** With you joining in.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lewis:** The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert anticipates me, Mr. Speaker—with me rising on behalf of my colleagues and myself to agree with both of them.

I would find it somewhat presumptuous of me to sing the praises of the Newfoundlanders or, indeed, the praises of any people in any other region of Canada. But it is a fact that as one travels across this country one of the impressive parts of that kind of experience is the indigenous culture, habits and traditions that one finds in each area of Canada, and there is no doubt at all that Newfoundland added a tradition and a culture that were distinct and are distinct in this great country of ours.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

● (1420)

I want to make only one other point. The Prime Minister said on behalf of all in this House, and the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert echoed him, that all of us wish the people of Newfoundland well—and so we do. As we wish them well I suggest that we in the parliament of Canada ought to keep in mind that their future welfare will in large measure depend on the success this parliament has in eliminating inequalities in this country and giving people in a province like Newfoundland the same conditions of life and the same opportunity for progress as other parts of the country enjoy.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix):** I always find it comforting, Mr. Speaker, to be able from time to time to congratulate fellow citizens for wise decisions they have made. In the world of politics, it is easy to criticize the doings of our fellow Canadians, but after 25 years in the Confederation, Newfoundland has shown its dedication and its ever-increasing contribution to Canada.

I would not certainly be able, as the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) did, to remind the House of Newfoundland's entry into Confederation especially since I did not live through it. But before I came to this House I had the opportunity on several occasions, through my work, to communicate rather closely with Newfoundlanders. I can say I gave a bit of myself in Newfoundland in the development of its micro-waves system. But, most of all, I have learned there the joy of living of its people. I think that we, Canadians of the other provinces, can look up to Newfoundlanders, because they are hard workers and do not shun work. Despite the hardships they have experienced at times, Newfoundlanders have managed to remain joyful, and this should be a lesson to us.

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[English]

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO AIR FORCE ON FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Halton-Wentworth (Mr. Kempling), the following motion:

That on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Air Force, all members of this House join in congratulating the past and present members of this great service on the contribution they have made to making the Canadian Air Force one of the outstanding air forces in the world, and in so doing have brought great honour to themselves and to their country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion proposed by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is suggested under Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.