

NEWFOUNDLAND

Now that negotiations for Newfoundland's entry into Confederation are to begin and to be continued presumably over several months, there will be many complicated and difficult questions to be discussed and negotiated. The way these negotiations are conducted will have an importance on subsequent relations between the new province and the Dominion. There will be a good deal of sensitiveness on the part of the Newfoundlanders about the present position, and I think that it would be wise to lean over backwards to avoid giving any cause for irritation, especially since such irritation would linger long after Confederation is accomplished. This means, I suppose, that we should go out of our way to emphasize that Newfoundland is entering Confederation of her own free will and as a separate entity, and to avoid giving the impression that we are merely "taking Newfoundland over."

One way of creating the right atmosphere and developing good feeling in Newfoundland towards union would be to appoint a High Commissioner for the remaining months until Newfoundland becomes part of Canada. Such an appointment would be valuable from the public relations standpoint and would also be helpful in the actual conduct of the negotiations which will soon begin. Bridle, the Acting High Commissioner, is, of course, an able person and well informed on Newfoundland problems, but he has neither seniority nor prestige. For that reason, it might be desirable to appoint soon a well-known and popular Canadian to the post whose appointment would be flattering to Newfoundland.

If anyone is appointed, I should think it highly desirable that Mr. Bridle stay on in view of his intimate knowledge of Newfoundland conditions and his sense of atmosphere there.

If you think this idea a good one, in principle, we could begin to look around for the right man.²

L. B. PEARSON

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au haut commissaire
de Grande-Bretagne*
*Secretary of State for External Affairs to High Commissioner
of Great Britain*

Ottawa, August 6, 1948

Dear Sir Alexander [Clutterbuck],

I refer to the telegram of the Governor of Newfoundland to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations dated August 5th, 1948,¹ a copy of which was forwarded to us by our Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland, concerning

¹C. J. Burchell fut nommé de nouveau haut commissaire à Terre-Neuve au mois de septembre.

²C. J. Burchell was again appointed High Commissioner in Newfoundland in September.