

2. No outport papers have as yet made any comment.

3. The St. John's *Sunday Herald* which advocated Responsible Government and economic union with the United States has as you know called on the people in spite of the disappointment being suffered by some, to accept the decision made in the referendum.

4. The St. John's *Daily News* which has very strongly opposed confederation first took the line that confusion and continuing division would be inevitable if confederation were proceeded with and noted that it was perhaps likely that the Canadian Government or at least the Canadian Parliament would decide that the majority was insufficient to warrant proceedings. Subsequently and until recently while continuing to adhere to the view that it would be wise to obtain a Parliamentary majority in Newfoundland for confederation before proceeding with it the newspaper's editorial column was considerably less extreme in its objections to confederation than it had been before the vote was taken.

5. The St. John's *Evening Telegram* at once accepted the referendum result as a clear indication of the will of the people and said that the only means of determining public sentiment in such a matter is by popular vote and that the will of the people has to be accepted to be that which is expressed in the voice of the greater number. It added that there can be no question whatever as to what the ruling sentiment of the electorate is — it does not favour restoration of Responsible Government.

6. Until recently the *Telegram* has pursued the same line. On Monday it pointed out that the vote for confederation is more substantial than was anticipated and also emphasized that only seven electoral districts favour Responsible Government. It stated that it accepts the verdict at the polls and urges the people to do the same declaring that to disregard the expressed wish of 77,000 people would be to invite trouble. On Tuesday as you know the *Telegram* took exception to certain statements made in the Responsible Government League memorandum of July 25th about the majority for confederation being obtained through tactics deliberately designed to divide the people.

7. On Wednesday both the *Daily News* and the *Evening Telegram* began to pursue a somewhat different line editorially. They have now brought forward the suggestion that a Provisional National Assembly should be elected as soon as possible on a non-party basis to form a Government to administer Newfoundland during an interim period during which the situation of the country would be assessed and the form of future Government determined. This form of the Provisional Government idea is not new here having been advocated by the *Evening Telegram* a considerable time ago.

8. The *Daily News* alleges and the *Evening Telegram* implies that the Commission of Government should not be entrusted with the Government of Newfoundland during the interim period prior to the establishment of a new form of Government because it has been repudiated by the people. The *Daily News* also alleges that the Commission has been compromised by the stand taken by two of its members in favour of confederation. Neither newspaper carried any significant editorial comment on Thursday but this morning the *Daily News* comes out strongly for the Provisional Government idea. Ends.