

MINUTES OF FOURTEENTH MEETING HELD ON THE
3RD OF SEPTEMBER, 1948, AT 10 A.M.

All members were present. Mr. R. Manning, Secretary for Public Utilities, was also in attendance.

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QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY FOR FINANCE
AND SECRETARY FOR CUSTOMS

159. Following a request therefor from the Commissioner for Finance, the Secretary was directed to write the Secretary for Finance and the Secretary for Customs setting forth the questions which the delegation had submitted to them verbally at previous meetings.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

161. The Chairman explained to Mr. Manning that the delegation wished to discuss with him the present set-up in his Department and the probable set-up as a result of Newfoundland's entry into Confederation, particularly with a view to ascertaining what points, if any, he wished the delegation to keep in mind during the forthcoming negotiations in Ottawa. In order to facilitate discussions, the 1948-1949 Estimates in respect of the Department of Public Utilities were examined and the following decisions reached:

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162. Mr. Manning enquired regarding the future of the loans made by the Newfoundland Government to Gander Airport and was informed that a letter concerning this matter was on the way to him from the Secretary.

163. Mr. Crosbie asked whether any assistance might be obtained from the Government of Canada in respect of road maintenance and construction etc., over and above such assistance as it may now be giving to other Provinces. The opinion of the delegation was that there was very little chance of this unless a good argument in favour thereof e.g., their necessity for military and defence purposes, could be submitted.

164. It was agreed that the question of the control of H.M. Penitentiary after Confederation was one for negotiation by the delegation in Ottawa.

165. As a result of the discussions noted above, Mr. Manning was requested to prepare for information of the delegation a brief on his Department showing the present *status quo* and how it would operate after Confederation. He was also asked to include therein (a) a note on the road programme which will be necessary during the next few years (b) the amounts which, in his opinion, should be recovered from the Canadian Government in respect of Gander Airport (c) his recommendations regarding public buildings and (d) any other matters concerning his Department which may be of interest to the delegation.

At this point Mr. Manning withdrew.

SHIPPING ACT

166. Mr. Crosbie stated that, in a recent conversation with Lloyd's Surveyor of Canada, he had been strongly advised to examine the Canadian Shipping Act