

sumed. But gradually relations of the modern world began to impress upon the people the new maxim that the day of the small nation was over. We began to look around for a partner with whom union would be mutually advantageous, and we looked to the west. There we stood, right at the very gates of Canada, a great nation and a member of the British Commonwealth, whose traditions and political principles were almost identical with our own. So representatives from Newfoundland sat down with Canada's government and worked out terms of union which some months ago were approved by the people and which made the completion of Canada a fact.

Honourable senators, I am very pleased to be able to report at this time that if a referendum on the question of confederation were taken in Newfoundland today, the vote would show that well over ninety per cent of the electorate was for union.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Peitten: There remains in Newfoundland today only a very insignificant and fast-dwindling faction in opposition to confederation. A very definite proof of this was evident recently when the people of the island gave an overwhelming welcome to His Excellency the Governor General. The warmth of the greeting, and the widespread enthusiasm with which he was met everywhere, furnished abundant evidence of the attitude of the people of the tenth province toward the union which made them part of this great and vigorous nation. And again I need not remind honourable senators of the tempestuous reception given to the Prime Minister of Canada when he visited the new province some weeks ago. The Right Honourable the Prime Minister was greeted by great throngs of enthusiastic people who were eager to welcome the great Liberal statesman with the warmth and hospitality for which they are noted. Thousands of those who turned out to welcome His Excellency and the Prime Minister were citizens who had voted and worked against union with Canada.

It was prophesied by the present premier of Newfoundland more than a year ago that Newfoundland would quickly become the happiest of all the provinces composing the union, and that prophecy is already on the way to fulfilment. The people are determined to give confederation a chance to work, and there is no doubt that it is already working.

To many of you Newfoundland is still a strange country, and it is too early to expect that the problems peculiar to the new province should be familiar to you. Despite the fact that but a few miles of water separate the island from the mainland, there is much

about this new part of Canada of which Canadians as a whole know very little.

Ours is a beautiful land, its climate and its scenery varying greatly. The perfect calm and mirrored quietude of long bays and sounds that reach inland for many miles in Bonavista and Trinity Bays, and the peaceful islands which make Notre Dame Bay a veritable paradise where trees thickly cover the hills down to the water's edge, contrast sharply with the bold rocky capes and headlands which in naked cruelty jut out into the stormy North Atlantic. The raw weather of the east coast is balanced by the finer, drier atmosphere of the Humber Valley. The storms of winter and long spring find compensation in a summer which, if rather brief, provides some of the finest weather imaginable, with hot sunlight tempered by wholesome sea breezes. In this setting of natural resources the sportsman finds his Eden, with the wary salmon waiting to be outwitted and a plentitude of large trout eager to fight the angler; while inland the lordly moose and fleet caribou roam the picturesque and scenic barrens.

The addition of Newfoundland to the rest of Canada brought another area of surpassing beauty to a great land already world famous for the diversity and excellence of its magnificent scenery.

Newfoundland's three major industries are the fisheries, the manufacture of pulp and paper, and mining. The fisheries, Newfoundland's chief source of wealth, have during recent years been undergoing some—shall I say—improvement. The erection of large freezing plants for the processing of fresh fish has been considerable, and its effect on the economy of the island has been extremely beneficial. But it was the salt codfish industry in the beginning which caused the colonization of the island, and which remains the most important factor in Newfoundland's economy.

This industry is divided into three main branches: the inshore fishery, the bank fishery, and the Labrador fishery. The inshore fishery is conducted with small boats manned by fishermen who, with traps and trawl, fish in the waters a few miles from the settlements in which they live. In the bank fishery, which is probably the best known of the three branches, fairly large schooners are used: they sail out to sea on the Grand Banks, and fish for cod in the deep waters. These vessels make several trips per year. The Labrador fishery also requires the use of schooners, considerably smaller than those used in the bank fishery. These outfit in the late spring and fish along the Labrador coast during the summer, returning home with their summer's catch of salt cod in the early fall.