

Senate enter this chamber they have complete liberty to act in the best interests of Canada.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Euler: When a member of the Commons says that the former Prime Minister stated that there was an obligation placed on senators, I think he must be mistaken. I am putting my observations mildly. I do not believe that the former Prime Minister ever asked any prospective senator to subscribe to such a pledge. It would be most improper for him to do so, and I cannot imagine that any self-respecting man would lower himself to the point of undertaking such an obligation or of giving such a pledge as a condition to his appointment to the Senate. Honourable senators, I felt that the time had come when there should be some public refutation of this charge made in the House of Commons.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I hope, after the experience of a few years, that even those Newfoundlanders who at the moment may for various reasons be opposed to confederation, will come to realize, along with all the people of Canada, that the contact that is now being arranged will work out to the benefit of all Canadians.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. L. M. Gouin: Honourable senators, I wish to corroborate emphatically the testimony given by our colleague from Waterloo (Hon. Mr. Euler) to the effect that no pledge was ever imposed upon any senator upon his appointment to this house. I entered the senate as a free man; otherwise I would have refused to accept the appointment; and I would not continue to sit unless I were perfectly free and untrammelled. This must be clearly understood by all.

We have listened to eloquent addresses by our colleagues from four provinces. We heard first from New Brunswick, through our acting leader (Hon. Mr. Copp); secondly, we heard from Manitoba, through the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig); thirdly, we listened with great interest to the illuminating and eloquent address of our distinguished colleague from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. Farris) who admirably represented our province on the Pacific coast. Finally, a few minutes ago, the voice of Ontario was heard through our colleague who has just spoken. Now I think it is befitting that you allow me a few minutes in order that the voice of the good old province of Quebec may also resound within the walls of this house in welcoming to our great Canadian family these brave and valiant Newfoundlanders.

I wish to support the motion before us for the second reading of Bill 11, "An Act to

approve the Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada", and to quote words so aptly used in another place by the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent. They are as follows:

This session . . . has the historic task of considering the addition to Canada of the last segment in the original plan of the Fathers of Confederation.

Thus is fulfilled, honourable senators, the vision of one great federation or federal union extending from sea to sea "*A mari usque ad mare*". Thus is that prophetic vision finally realized.

Let me remind you, as has already been done by our honourable colleague from Vancouver South (Hon. Mr. Farris) that the British North America Act of 1867 provided, in section 146, for the admission, among other provinces, of Newfoundland. It states:

It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, on Addresses from the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, . . .

and from the Legislature of the Colony of Newfoundland, to admit that colony into the union which we now commonly call Confederation. The end of that section contains the following words:

And the provisions of any order in council in that behalf shall have effect as if they had been enacted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

I think it necessary to call attention to that last sentence because it provides expressly for the procedure which is to be followed in the case of the admission of, among other provinces, Newfoundland.

As you all know, the British North America Act of 1867 was based upon resolutions which had been adopted at the Quebec Conference of 1864. At that conference there were present delegates from the then existing provinces of Canada, now Ontario and Quebec, as well as from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. At this conference, where by the way, my own native province was represented by Sir E. P. Taché, Sir Georges Etienne Cartier, Mr. Chapais, father of our late and highly-esteemed colleague, and Mr. Langevin, resolutions were adopted containing provisions for the eventual admission of Newfoundland. It is true at the conference subsequently held in London, the so-called Westminster Conference, when discussions were held as to the draft of the bill which finally became the British North America Act, no representations were received from Newfoundland. But Newfoundland through its delegates at the Conference of Quebec had already voted in favour of provisions for its eventual admission into the federal union, so it was logical,