

## DISCUSSIONS WITH NEWFOUNDLAND

**PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT:** The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, on July 30, issued the following statement:

As Prime Minister of Canada, I sent to the Governor of Newfoundland on October 29th, 1947, a statement which made known to the people of Newfoundland the terms believed by the Canadian Government to constitute a fair and equitable basis of union between Newfoundland and Canada, should the people of Newfoundland desire to enter into confederation. In my covering letter, forwarding that statement, I said:

"Should the people of Newfoundland indicate clearly and beyond all possibility of misunderstanding their will that Newfoundland should become a province of Canada on the basis of the proposed arrangements, the Canadian Government, subject to the approval of Parliament, would for its part be prepared to take the necessary constitutional steps to make the union effective at the earliest practicable date."

On Thursday, July 22nd, the people of Newfoundland voted on the following alternative forms of government for that country.

(a) Responsible Government as it existed in 1933 prior to the establishment of Commission of Government.

(b) Confederation with Canada.

The result of this vote to date, as communicated officially to the Government of Canada by the Governor of Newfoundland, is as follows:

Out of a total registered vote of about 176,000, the vote for confederation is 77,869 and for responsible government 71,464. The total majority to date is thus over 6,400. It is estimated that about 500 votes are still to be counted but this will not materially alter the result. It would also appear that close to 85 per cent of the eligible voters exercised their right to vote.

It will be noted from the above that a definite majority of the very high percentage of the electorate of Newfoundland which voted, has expressed its wishes in favour of confederation. It would seem, therefore, that the result of the plebiscite in favour of union between the two countries is "clear and beyond possibility of misunderstanding." This result was attained without any trace of influence or pressure from Canada.

The Government welcomes, and I believe the people of Canada also welcome, the result of the plebiscite. We have ascertained that for its part the United Kingdom Government, which at present is responsible for the administration of Newfoundland under the United Kingdom-Newfoundland Act, 1933, in view of the result of the referendum, is in agreement with the entry of Newfoundland and into Confederation. The union when effected, will seal in constitutional terms a close and fraternal association that has existed, in war and in peace,

between the two countries over many years.

The Canadian Government is now consulting with the Governments of Newfoundland and the United Kingdom in the working out of appropriate constitutional procedure for implementing the decision taken by the people of Newfoundland. The Government will also be glad to receive with the least possible delay authorized representatives of Newfoundland to negotiate the terms of union on the basis of my letter of October 29, 1947, to the Governor of Newfoundland, and the document transmitted with it. In these negotiations any special problems which may arise in connection with the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation will, I am sure, receive most careful consideration. Before final action is taken, the Government will recommend the resulting agreement to the Parliament of Canada for approval. In this connection, I would recall my statement made in the House of Commons on June 23rd, 1947, that, "on the part of Canada, no final decision would of course be taken without the approval of Parliament."

The union of Newfoundland and Canada, two North American democracies in the British Commonwealth of Nations, will add strength to both. Together, as partners, we may look forward to the future with more confidence than if we had remained separate political communities.

As Prime Minister of Canada, it is a pleasure for me on behalf of Canada to welcome, warmly and sincerely, the decision of the people of Newfoundland. As a member of the Government of Canada, it has been a privilege to have had to do with seeking to bring to completion a constructive partnership foreseen by those men of courage and vision in both countries who, many years ago, began the work of confederation.

**PRIME MINISTER'S TELEGRAM:** The Prime Minister, on July 30, sent the following telegram to Mr. W.L. Collins, Secretary of the Responsible Government League in St. John's, Newfoundland:

"Ottawa, July 30, 1948.

"W.L. Collins, Esq.,  
Secretary, Responsible Government League,  
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Your telegram of July 29 setting forth the request of the Responsible Government League that the Canadian Government should receive a delegation representing the League has been carefully considered.

In considering this request, account has been taken of the fact that, from the moment steps were first taken to decide upon the future government of Newfoundland, the Canadian Government has at no time intervened in any way in the determination of the procedure to be followed in Newfoundland.

The delegation from the National Government which came to Ottawa last year was received at the request of the Commission of Government. Having regard for the course thus far followed and for the democratic process which has been adopted to ascertain the views of the people of Newfoundland as a whole, the Government of Canada is of the opinion that before receiving any delegation it should be similarly authorized by the duly constituted authorities of Newfoundland.

W.L. Mackenzie King  
Prime Minister."

**ADMIT CZECHOSLOVAKIANS:** The Honourable James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Mines and Resources, announced August 3 that authority has been issued for the admission to Canada of Czechoslovakians who have fled from that country and are now located in camps in occupied territory.

Arrangements are being made immediately for an immigration selection team, which includes medical officers and officers of the Department of Labour, to visit the camps and select up to 1,000 of these refugees for placement in employment, on arrival in Canada, by the Department of Labour.

**AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES:** The trend towards a wider use by industry of agricultural university graduates will receive added impetus in 1949 when about 1,000 students will graduate from agricultural colleges in Canada. Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, announced August 3.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the 1949 class will be unusually large as a study of the long-term trend over a period of years suggests a normal yearly graduation of about 300.

It is expected that a proportion of students will take up farming. The success of many previous graduates proves farming, as a career, an attractive possibility. However, diversion to fields other than agriculture is particularly evident from the past records of agricultural graduating classes. Their usefulness has become established in such fields as meat-packing, milk distribution, preparation of flour and feeds, canning, refrigeration and sugar production. The federal and provincial Governments and government agencies probably will absorb more than 100.

Although the occupational distribution of these graduates cannot be determined yet, an important factor in promoting the successful placement of the class of 1949, as well as those of 1950 and 1951, will be the extent to which both employers and students have developed useful connections during vacation employment. Summer employment may well point the way to a definite career upon graduation, and there is room for further development of this practice, the Minister pointed out.

**HON. JAMES FORRESTAL TO VISIT:** Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, announced August 4 that the Hon. James Forrestal, Secretary of Defence of the United States, would visit Canada at his invitation, arriving on Sunday, August 15th. Mr. Forrestal will be returning the visit made by Mr. Claxton to Washington in January of this year.

The Minister said that the visit, which was an informal one, would provide an opportunity for the Secretary of Defence to meet and discuss mutual problems with Canadian Cabinet Ministers and senior defence officers.

Following the Secretary's visit in Ottawa, Mr. Forrestal and Mr. Claxton will proceed together on the morning of Tuesday, August 17th, to Ogdensburg, New York, where they will take part in the Ogdensburg Bi-Centennial and the ceremony commemorating the meeting there of President Roosevelt and Right-Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, on August 17, 1940. It will be recalled that it was at this meeting between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada that the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence was established.

**DISCONTINUE SUBSIDY:** The Wartime Prices and Trade Board July 31 announced that the subsidy on fats and oils going into soap and shortening is being discontinued effective August 1st, and that these products are being released from price control.

The fats and oils subsidy has been running at a rate of one and a half to two million dollars per month, and the subsidy content in the retail price has been approximately one cent per bar on toilet soap, one to two cents per bar on laundry soap and three cents per medium package of flakes or chips. In the case of shortening the subsidy content at present is about twelve cents per pound.

Linseed, corn and olive oils and most of the salad and cooking oils, were freed from ceilings in September, 1947.

Products being released from price control are: Edible and inedible tallow, oleo stock, oleo oil, oleo stearine, neatsfoot oil, hog grease and lard; soap and shortening; and those marine and vegetable oils which have remained under price control until now. Among these are fish, whale and seal oil; and cottonseed, mustardseed, rapeseed, sunflower seed, soya bean, palm, peanut and coconut oils. When pork products were decontrolled last October, lard was held under ceiling because it is an alternative to shortening. Both are being released.

The Board pointed out that the action is the last of three steps. On February 1, 1947, the subsidy on soaps and shortening was reduced by about one-third and corresponding price increases were permitted. A further similar step was taken June 1 of last year. This procedure is in line with the policy of gradual decontrol which the Government has been following since the war ended.