

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This volume is a companion to Volume 1 which dealt with actual relations between Canada and Newfoundland in the years immediately before confederation. The present volume documents the parallel process which brought about confederation and, while it covers public events about which a great deal has already been written, it does make the actions and attitudes of the British, Canadian and Newfoundland Governments plainer than they have been made before. The reader may find it useful, however, to refer to a few documents in Volume 1 which deal with confederation and, more generally, with the political future of Newfoundland. These may be found by consulting the index of that volume.

In the present volume, particularly in Chapter V which covers the negotiation of the Terms of Union and the subsequent process whereby Newfoundland became a province of Canada, the demands of selectivity have been acute. Nevertheless, while further research into the sources tapped would certainly expose greater detail, it is the opinion of the editor that, in all essential respects, the documents in the collection make clear what happened. No document shedding significant light on events has been excluded unless it is well matched by other material in the book. Material deleted from certain documents is either redundant or inconsequential.

The only important question the documents do not answer is the question of the attitude of the United States toward the union of Newfoundland with Canada. In the early stages of the Second World War, the President of the United States encouraged the Canadian Government to think in terms of bringing Newfoundland into confederation after the war.¹ On the other hand, the present volume makes it clear that, a few years later, there was a strong feeling within the Canadian Government that the United States would be more than pleased if Newfoundland gravitated into its orbit. Perhaps only consultation of United States documents of the period will settle this issue.

One further comment at the substantive level is in order. While the present volume includes a significant number of British and Newfoundland documents, most of the material is of Canadian origin. Consequently, events are seen and described largely from a Canadian point of view. This is true even of the proceedings of the Newfoundland National Convention, to the extent that they are depicted.²

One aspect of the Canadian documentation deserves special comment. The perceptive reader of Volume 1 will have noticed that in the hurly-burly of war-time operations and post-war business, Canadians were usually gentler and more comradely with Newfoundlanders than were the Americans but were also prone, when necessary, to try to have their way with their island kinsmen. This trait, in another dimension, also manifests itself in the present volume. Indeed, from time

¹ See Document 435 of Volume 1 and Document 28 of this volume.

² Readers who would like a fuller and more objective account of the proceedings of the National Convention will find very complete documentation at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador and a verbatim record of the meetings at the Public Archives of Canada.