

documents and information now at hand on the understanding that if, as the overall picture grew clearer as the work progressed, it appeared that expert advice was necessary in any connection, such advice would be obtained.

8. With further reference to this matter, the Chairman stated that the Newfoundland Government wished to assure the delegation that it was at liberty to call in for consultation or to enlist the services in any respect of any member of the Public Service and that in addition, he understood that officials of the Canadian Government were also willing to come to Newfoundland, if necessary, to discuss with local Government officials any problems arising out of the terms of Confederation upon which they might require information or elaboration. The delegation noted this fact with satisfaction.

IMPORTATIONS INTO NEWFOUNDLAND

9. Mr. Crosbie remarked that he had recently returned from a trip north during the course of which he had noticed considerable uneasiness amongst retailers and others in the matter of the importations of stocks particularly food supplies, for the coming Winter. It was evident that merchants were hesitant to import large quantities and, in certain cases, even sufficient quantities to meet local needs throughout the Winter because the position regarding Customs duties thereon was not entirely clear to them. From the standpoint of the possible injurious effect of shortages of food on the health and welfare of the residents in these areas he felt that this matter was one of considerable importance and urgency and that something should be done, either by the Commission of Government or by the delegation, to relieve the prevailing uncertainty.

10. Members generally appreciated the situation and agreed that it should be clarified immediately. It was therefore decided that the Secretary of Customs should be asked to appear before the delegation for consultation thereon at the earliest possible date. The Chairman undertook to approach Mr. Howell at once and to endeavour to arrange an interview for the 27th of August at 10 a.m.

REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED TO DELEGATION

11. A number of representations having been received by the Chairman from local interests relative to the effects of Confederation upon their operations and requesting the delegation to act on their behalf in an effort to obtain certain safeguards and/or concessions for them from the Government of Canada, it was decided that these representations should be given priority by the delegation in its deliberations.

The meeting adjourned at 1.00 p.m.

J. G. CHANNING Secretary
Confirmed. A. J. WALSH Chairman

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*Le haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve au
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland to
Secretary of State for External Affairs*