

The agreement has required long and careful consideration. You for Newfoundland and we for Canada have had to do our respective bests to safeguard the interests of those whom we represent. Happily, our primary concern has not been for the narrow advantage of each, but to assure our common interests in one enlarged nation. We have, it is true, had certain difficulties. But, as D'Arcy McGee once said when talking about objections that had been raised to Confederation, "I have never...of any state being founded or enlarged or delivered from danger, except by surmounting difficulties."

In many ways the problems we have surmounted have been more difficult and more complex than those faced by the Fathers of Confederation in 1867. Government then was a simpler business than government today, and the economies of the British North American colonies of that day were more alike than are the economies of Newfoundland and Canada today. In the years intervening since 1867, we have gone our separate ways; we have developed differently; and we have built up quite different administrative systems. Marriage between adults of mature years requires greater adjustment and a broader tolerance of differences between the parties than does marriage between younger folk just starting to assume the responsibilities of life. So, too, with the union of mature countries. We may, I think, congratulate ourselves that we have successfully surmounted these difficulties in such a relatively short space of time.

Now at last we have reached agreement and the terms of agreement for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation have been signed. The date of union on which we have set our sights is March 31, 1949. Upon that day, I profoundly hope we shall see the fruition of our work. Some details in our agreement may not meet the approbation of all. But I would ask those who may not be satisfied with every detail to think of the general good which flows from this historic act. It is my sincere hope - and my belief - that the future will find the vast majority of people in what is now Canada and the vast majority of people in Newfoundland in continued and warm agreement as to the justice and wisdom of these terms of the union.

The entry of Newfoundland into Confederation will, I am confident, be of mutual advantage to both parties. When, over 81 years ago, the plans for the union of the British colonies of North America were being drafted, the problem of defence and security was in the minds of a good many people who favoured union. During two wars, Canada and Newfoundland have worked in exceedingly close co-operation for mutual defence and the achievement of victory. The question of defence and security is very much in our minds again today. With Newfoundland forming the tenth province of Canada, I think that both we in Canada and you in Newfoundland will feel more secure than heretofore in this troubled world.

Union will bring our two peoples much closer together. That, to my mind, will be its most important consequence. Already we have much in common. We enjoy the same heritage. We have the same political traditions. We are certainly not strangers to each other. Now we shall be able to cultivate to the full our old associations and to build new ones. As Mr. Bradley said when the delegation from the National Convention came to Ottawa in June, of 1947, "should Newfoundland become the tenth province of your Canadian Union, you will be receiving as a partner a proud people eager and determined to pull their weight in generous measure". Canadians are equally "eager and determined to pull their weight".

Canada has made tremendous strides in the eighty-one years that have passed since the four original provinces joined in Confederation on July 1st, 1867. We are a united people. Our strength, both physical and economic, has increased many fold. We are prosperous.