

sively to say what would be done. I issued a small statement of a character to hold off any final word until the next meeting of Council. Today's results indicate Confederation having carried by a small majority, but all returns not yet in. It looks now with a majority of 5,000 or thereabouts. If the referendum had carried with a sufficiently large majority to admit Newfoundland, my own feeling is that this step will add very much to our problems for some little time, that the Maritimes will become more difficult to handle. At the same time, I believe that the bringing in of Newfoundland is the logical end to it, and probably in the course of time it will be among the accomplishments of the administration of which I am the head. It will be that of the rounding out of Confederation by the addition of a tenth province. This will be completing the nation in its physical boundaries as it has already been completed in its complete autonomy and its position as a nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations."⁷⁶

...

638.

2828-40

*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*

TELEGRAM 140

St. John's, July 24, 1948

Your telegram No. 106 of July 23rd[†] Prime Minister's press statement.

1. I have complied with your paragraph two.
2. The substance of the Prime Minister's statement was carried in a Canadian Press story from Ottawa by the St. John's *Daily News* this morning.
3. I released the text of the statement to the press here this morning and it was carried in full on the front page of the St. John's *Evening Telegram* this afternoon.

⁷⁶Dans son livre *My Years with Louis St. Laurent: A Political Memoir*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1975, pp. 79-80, J. W. Pickersgill écrit:

⁷⁶In his book *My Years with Louis St. Laurent: A Political Memoir*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1975, pp. 79-80, J. W. Pickersgill wrote:

The morning after the second referendum I was worried when I heard on the news broadcast that the vote for Confederation was just over 52 per cent and the vote for responsible government over 46 per cent. As soon as I reached the office I asked Gordon Robertson to calculate the percentage of the vote the Liberal Party had received in every general election from 1921. Only in 1940 had the Liberal vote exceeded 50 per cent and in no case was it equal to the percentage of the vote in Newfoundland for Confederation. When Mackenzie King called me on the telephone that morning and asked my opinion of the vote, I was able to tell him how favourably the vote for Confederation compared with the support he had received in successive elections which he had regarded as clear expressions of the will of the Canadian people. Whether my opinion had any influence on the Prime Minister I had no means of knowing, but the Cabinet did decide, on 27 July, that the majority was substantial enough to justify proceeding with negotiations for union.