

If I may presume to say so, in the interest of the highest development of this family life, desirable though mutual understanding certainly is, it is even more urgent that Newfoundland be well known through Canada than that the rest of Canada be well known in Newfoundland. Only in a small measure can the unsolved problems of Newfoundland affect the welfare of the dominion as a whole, but the attitude of the federal government and of the people of Canada towards our province can affect us vitally. We have our immediate problems of readjustment to the new status. Some of them are inherent in our geographical position, away to the east; some of them are due to Nature itself, as with every country in varying degrees; and some of them are born of the sudden change from the position of neighbours, each concentrating on her own affairs, to one of living together under one roof.

It is a pleasure for me to say that the warmth of the welcome which the province of Newfoundland received upon entering the dominion has left a deep and abiding impression upon our people. Our province has been visited by the Prime Minister, most of the cabinet ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, and many of the members of the federal and provincial parliaments, all of whom are anxious to know us and understand us. Neither have we been passed over by the federal departments, the chief officers of which have visited us frequently. All that is to the good, and their interest and good will is much appreciated. We wish to be better known by the people of Canada as a whole. This I realize will take time, but it will pay off in good and friendly relations.

One sometimes hears the expression, even in Newfoundland, that we should be treated as the other provinces, no better and no worse. On the face of it that may appear to be quite fair, but it is one of those generalities which however well-meant is ill-considered and dangerous. There is no precise yardstick existing by which to measure the needs as between the other provinces, nor indeed the equitable treatment of Newfoundland. As I have just intimated, your economy from the Atlantic to the Pacific has been interwoven and made to pattern over generations. Inequalities may still exist, but time has done much to provide the remedy. Our economy to a great extent has to be re-made to a new pattern which requires its own treatment.

Being off in the Atlantic Ocean by ourselves, our trade—and it is by trade that our people live—has not been interlocked with Canadian trade any more than our politics

were joined with yours. Being producers of goods which in the main are similar to those produced in other parts of Canada, we found our markets elsewhere, and in a great measure we must continue to do so. For centuries our fisheries have been supported by overseas trade. In these times of world upheaval, when international commerce is complicated and frustrated by inconvertible currencies and restrictions of one kind and another Newfoundland requires the special interest of the Federal government to maintain the flow of goods which our people must produce to live. In recent years Great Britain took us under her wing in maintaining our European trade for salted fish, which is vital to the earnings of a large portion of our people. We exported our goods to certain European markets under British trade and currency clearance agreements in times when Canadian exports to those same markets were much restricted. Our European trade started more than four centuries ago, and it has gone on practically without interruption ever since. It is a matter of vital concern that we be not pushed out of these markets now in this period of currency difficulties, and that our place be not permanently taken by European producers. We recognize that since the entry of our province into the dominion this problem has received the close attention of the federal government. No service that the Government of Canada can render Newfoundland is of greater urgency than this. Our switch from the British tie to the Canadian tie left this problem wide open. Unless the flow of our salted fish to Europe can be maintained it will be disastrous to that branch of the fisheries in the Maritime Provinces, which would have to meet the competition of our surplus supplies in the Western Hemisphere markets. One would indeed be fatalistic in his outlook if he were to regard such measures of relief as are necessary in these Extraordinary times as being of a permanent character. We must certainly view the present international currency difficulties as temporary, and all that is being done now should be considered as just "holding the line".

There is no other province that has so little opportunity of finding its basic trade within the Dominion as has Newfoundland. Nearly everything we produce is produced by the other provinces, and in competing we are at a geographical disadvantage. Canada is one of the great exporting countries of the world, and it may be of interest to point out that the ratio of exports of Newfoundland to its gross national product is nearly three times as great as that of the dominion as a whole. The whole dominion has a ratio of about 24 per cent of export trade to total national