

The whole effort here should be to overcome the criticism that the terms are unnegotiated.

The Newfoundland Government on its part would do its utmost to ensure that the members of the delegation were the right sort of people with whom the Canadian Government could deal.

The Governor agreed to preserve an open mind on the question of the size of the delegation until he received some informal indication from our people as to what they would like in this connection. His own feeling was that it ought not to be too large.

It was agreed that a considerable amount of work could be done by officials before the delegations meet, possibly beginning in St. John's.

Asked if he would care to express any view regarding the chances of a Confederation party winning a post-referendum election in Newfoundland, the Governor said that you would get perhaps 14 or so seats for Confederation but with a minority vote. This, he believes, is not what the Canadian Government is interested in. It wants to know what the people of Newfoundland think about Confederation; it is not interested in what the people of a particular District think of a particular man who runs for a Confederate party or a Responsible Government party. He said that there would be no question that the men who would form the delegation to Ottawa and who would wish to stand would be elected in the provincial election. This, he said, applies even to Responsible Government supporters who might be appointed to the delegation. Mr. Walsh agreed with the Governor's main point. He said that you would get a Confederation party returned by some sort of majority and that eventually a delegation would go to Ottawa on behalf of this Government but that there is a very real danger of the whole matter becoming subject to the same kind of politics that bedevilled the National Convention and in any case you would merely be circumventing the provision already set up to determine the will of the people and the only gain would be a delay during which Newfoundland would inevitably suffer. In addition, by electing a Parliament which would sit in St. John's, you would really set up a center of resistance to Confederation.

The Governor spoke very strongly on this point and said that the fact of the matter is that if Confederation is turned down now by the Canadian Government, it may never happen in our time.

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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*

TELEGRAM 151

St. John's, July 30, 1948

IMPORTANT. Following for MacKay and Rae from Bridle, Begins:

1. Press comment to date in Newfoundland on referendum results may be summarized as follows: