



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CONCLUDING PLENIARY SESSION OF THE  
MEETINGS BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL  
DELEGATION FROM NEWFOUNDLAND AND  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF CANADA.

Speeches by Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister  
of Canada, and Mr. A.J. Walsh, Chairman of the  
Newfoundland Delegation, in the Senate Chamber,  
Ottawa, December 11, 1948.

Mr. St. Laurent's Speech

Mr. Walsh and Gentlemen:

For two months the official Delegation from Newfoundland has been working out with Representatives of the Government of Canada precise terms for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. I am sure all of us are agreed that our labours have been characterized by a spirit of mutual understanding and good-will. The Representatives of the Government of Canada have endeavoured to appreciate the position and views of the Delegation from Newfoundland, to be responsive to requests for information, and generally to facilitate the negotiations. I hope we have succeeded. I know I am speaking for all the Canadians who have participated in our discussions when I express warm appreciation of the broad outlook and co-operative attitude of the Newfoundland delegation.

I feel that I shall be speaking for the Newfoundland delegation, as well as for my colleagues, when I express our thanks for the hard work and efficient service of the officials and the clerical staffs on both sides, who have been associated with these arduous and complicated negotiations.

All of us in this room know it has not been a simple task to arrive at exact terms of union. At this moment, it may be appropriate to recall what had been accomplished before our labours began on October 6th. Time and study were required to determine whether there was a fair and equitable basis for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. A delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland spent four months here in Ottawa in 1947, exploring this question with a committee of the Canadian Government. Following that study, Mr. Mackenzie King communicated to the Governor of Newfoundland the general terms the Canadian Government would be prepared to recommend to Parliament as a basis for union. Then the people of Newfoundland were given, in a democratic manner, an opportunity to decide whether, on that basis, they wished Newfoundland to unite federally with Canada. When the people of Newfoundland, by a majority vote in a referendum on July 22, 1948, had expressed their desire to enter into Confederation, Mr. King announced that the government of Canada would be glad to receive authorized representatives of Newfoundland to work out the precise terms of an agreement for union. That agreement has now been concluded, and as Mr. King indicated, the next stage in Canada will be its submission to Parliament for approval. It will also require to be approved by the Government of Newfoundland and confirmed by an act of the British Parliament.