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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE:** The following is the text of the address of welcome delivered by the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Acting Prime Minister, to the Official Delegation from Newfoundland, in the Senate Chamber, at Ottawa, October 6:

"Mr. Walsh and members of the delegation from Newfoundland:

"Today it is my pleasant duty to welcome you, the delegation from Newfoundland, appointed to negotiate the precise terms of the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. We welcome you as representatives of a people who share with us great traditions and who with us occupy half a continent. We welcome you with a warm heart and with every good wish for an early and favourable outcome to these negotiations.

"We are gathered in this Chamber on an historic occasion. I think it is not too much to say 'historic', whether we are thinking of the future or of the past. The linking of the fortunes of two countries in a common destiny must always be an act of faith in the future. I need not, moreover, emphasize the uncertainties and dangers in the world at large of present times. It is our earnest hope that union will better assure the future safety and welfare of both peoples.

"Twice before Newfoundland has stood on the threshold of Confederation. The Chairman of the delegation that came to Ottawa from the National Convention in June, 1947, spoke of the great dream of the founders of Confedera-

tion of a nation stretching from Victoria to St. John's, and he named two from among the people of Newfoundland - Sir Frederick Carter and Sir Ambrose Shea - who shared that dream and did what they could to see it realized. These men are honoured by Canadians as two of the Fathers of Confederation. Again there was the conference of 1895 that ended in a second unsuccessful attempt to bring about the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. The union, the terms of which we now hope to settle, will be the realization of an old dream. Union will be based on more than a dream. Newfoundland and Canada have been closely associated not only during years of peace but also in two gigantic struggles for the preservation of a common heritage.

"To turn to very recent events, the most recent approach to Confederation began when the National Convention of Newfoundland decided to explore the possibilities of Union with Canada. A delegation from the Convention was accordingly sent to Ottawa in June, 1947. Its task was to enquire what fair and equitable basis might exist for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. For a period of about four months a committee of our Government joined with that delegation to exchange information and to enquire into the many and complex matters that would arise should union be undertaken. Then, on October 29, 1947, Mr. Mackenzie King, as Prime Minister of Canada, sent to the Governor of Newfoundland, a statement of the