

In the circumstances, it was desirable that the Cabinet consider the draft terms with the object of holding a special meeting on Friday for final approval and authorization of signature.

Copies of the draft terms of union were circulated.

(Terms of Union between Canada and Newfoundland, second printing).

4. Mr. St. Laurent said that the Newfoundland delegation might request an arrangement whereby old age pensions could be paid in Newfoundland immediately following union; to this end it would probably be suggested that the Commission of Government enact the appropriate legislation prior to March 31st.

It was questionable whether such an arrangement should be made under the terms of the Old Age Pension Act and it would not seem desirable to amend the Act for the purpose. In the circumstances, the Newfoundland delegation might be told that the government would not be able to make contributions to Newfoundland for old age pensions until an agreement had been concluded with the Province following the appropriate legislation by the Provincial legislature.

5. The Minister of National Defence, referring to discussion at the meeting of December 1st, submitted and read a draft letter to the U.K. High Commissioner requesting that, upon union with Canada, Admiralty lands and buildings in the Island be made available to the Canadian government.

6. The Cabinet, after discussion:

(a) agreed that a special meeting be held at 2.30 on Friday, December 10th, to consider the final terms of union;

(b) agreed that the Prime Minister and the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs sign the agreement on behalf of Canada;

(c) noted with approval the Prime Minister's proposal with regard to old age pension assistance to Newfoundland after union; and,

(d) approved despatch of a communication to the U.K. High Commissioner regarding Admiralty property in Newfoundland along the lines suggested by the Minister of National Defence.

RG 2, A5a,
Vol. 2642

Privy Council Office
Bureau du Conseil privé

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada

000004