

he felt, could not long survive satisfactorily under Responsible Government.)

In the general discussion which followed Mr. McEvoy's remarks, the following, among other, points were made by various members:

(a) The Island outside of the Avalon Peninsula had gone over 70% for Confederation and that this area included the great bulk of the primary producers. It was noted that a number of people had written in to the Confederation group asking whether it might not be possible to provide for Responsible Government for the Avalon Peninsula while the rest of the Island went into Confederation.

(b) The Orange Order had become aroused in the second election due to the stand of the hierarchy in St. John's and had turned out to a man in favour. It was not thought that this turned any district except possibly Bonavista.

(c) For Canada to decline to accept Newfoundland without further ado would be to establish minority rule and that there would be great resentment in the outports against the St. John's area. Indeed, one speaker predicted civil disturbances in some areas if this were done.

(d) Most of the people of Newfoundland were now fed up with elections and assumed that matters were settled. Several speakers cited personal incidences [instances?] of people who had voted against Confederation indicating they were prepared to accept the referendum as a final decision. One speaker said that he was convinced that a number of Roman Catholics who had voted for Responsible Government were pleased to see that it had not won. To my query whether the telegram of the Responsible Government League, published in today's press, represented the views of the rank and file of the minority, there was general agreement that it did not and one member said he had heard a number of fishermen who admitted they were anti-Confederation, indicating that they thought the telegram was just stirring up trouble. Most people present agreed that there was no very widespread interest in the constitutional questions raised by the League.

There was general agreement that a large number of those who voted for Responsible Government were not against Confederation as such, although they preferred Confederation by negotiation. To my query whether if a strong delegation were sent to Ottawa and some changes were made in the terms this might not allay the criticism, several members seemed to think that it would. There seemed to be general agreement that one important concession which might allay criticism would be some arrangement for continuance of the Newfoundland Fisheries Board, by name or by comparable arrangement.

I raised the question of the probable time of union, assuming it were decided to go ahead. I pointed out it would be almost impossible to complete arrangements for union before freeze-up and I asked whether, under these circumstances, it would be desirable to set a definite date, even some time in advance, and have this date announced in order to provide some assurance to business. Businessmen present, generally agreed that from their point of view a date reasonably far in advance would be preferable and especially a date which would be more or less between the main importing seasons. One merchant present suggested March 31st as a convenient date from their standpoint. Other members thought there would be disappointment among the Newfoundland people because of the delay