LE REFERENDUM

achieved at the polls. At the same time, Confederation, as a number of its most distinguished advocates have often said to me, is now bigger than any one man. I think it can be taken as a remarkable, even a rather wonderful thing that at this time and under present conditions a clear majority of the people of Newfoundland have solemnly indicated their desire that their country should unite itself with Canada. There is, of course, still substantial opposition to Confederation, but, when one looks back on what has transpired in the past, the phenomenon which has just occurred seems rather like a revolution of opinion.

17. I would like to remark in passing that one should not overlook the fact that Confederation has, during the present campaign, been described by its advocates as "British Union with Canada." There is still a strong undercurrent of British loyalty in the mental make-up of the Newfoundland people. The fact that Confederation offers economic security without loss of their British connection, has, I think, been a factor of real significance in its success. Some of the new spokesmen for Confederation notably Mr. J. B. McEvoy and Sir Leonard Outerbridge, have stressed the opportunity Newfoundland now has to join with Canada in making a great British nation in North America. This appeal no doubt to a considerable extent offset the cry of "Don't sell your country!" which was raised to an increasing extent during the latter days of the campaign.

18. In assessing the recent campaign one must, of course, give a very great deal of credit for Confederation's majority to the forthright stand in its favour taken by a number of outstanding citizens — members of the Government, merchants, and lawyers. It has been said that "the cream of this country" is behind Confederation. I think that by and large this is true. For example, all three Judges of the Supreme Court are privately but unequivocally in favour of Confederation, and I have no doubt there are others in positions of importance of one kind or another who are also in sympathy with the movement even though they have not publicly taken a stand in its favour. When one considers the fact that the great majority of the Newfoundland electorate are poorly educated, and some of them even illiterate, it is difficult to over-estimate the importance to the success of Confederation of the support which such men as Dr. H. L. Pottle, Mr. Arthur Monroe, and Mr. Herman Quinton afforded it in the latter days of the recent campaign.

19. I would like to add a word on the question of the division of feeling in the country. That people here have differed with real conviction and sometimes with considerable fervour on the political question is undeniable. At the same time, the political temperature did not rise nearly as noticeably toward the end of the campaign as I had thought it would. Furthermore, polling day was quiet throughout the Island.

20. In the course of the campaign, personal animosities and class prejudices developed; and each side endeavoured, once the religious factor was introduced, to capitalize in a quiet way on the alleged religious bigotry of the other. It does not now appear that personal or class feeling has caused any really unwholesome division in the community. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cashin did the Responsible Government cause more harm than good in the last days of the campaign by making a speech in which he indulged in some very unpleasant personal allegations about certain supporters of Confederation. The fact that prominent merchants and successful lawyers now support Confederation is a clear indication