

It is most gratifying to me as Prime Minister of Canada to cut the first line on the shield that will bear the arms of the ancient colony of Newfoundland, now the tenth province of Canada.

I do so, for my own part and on behalf of my predecessor, Mr. Mackenzie King, who as Prime Minister had a large and decisive part in bringing about the union.

I feel confident that the inscription in hard and enduring stone will not be more lasting than the union of which it is the symbol.

(These remarks repeated by Mr. St. Laurent in French.)

Address of His Excellency the Governor General

It is my privilege today in speaking to the people of Newfoundland, and to those who are now their fellow citizens in the rest of Canada, to convey a message from His Majesty the King. The message is as follows:

Please convey to the government and people of Canada on behalf of the Queen and myself our appreciation of the message of loyalty and good wishes which you sent me. On this historic occasion I am glad to send my good wishes to the people of the greater Canada -- to those of the old provinces and to those of the new province of Newfoundland -- who will now go forward together to the high destiny that awaits them. Today marks the fulfilment of the union into one great nation of all peoples of the British commonwealth in the northern part of North America. May the union that is now complete continue, under God's guidance, to grow in strength, prosperity, happiness, and may it bring new benefits to its people from sea to sea.

As representative of His Majesty, and as Governor General of Canada, it is a special pleasure for me to be able to convey that message on so historic an occasion.

The ceremony we have witnessed, the beginning of the carving of the arms of Newfoundland on the tenth shield in the arch of the Peace Tower, is a perfect symbol of the event we celebrate today. When union of the British colonies in North America was discussed at Quebec in 1864, Newfoundland was represented. At that time it was expected that Newfoundland would form a part of the proposed union. When the confederation that is now Canada was established, and Newfoundland was not included, the union was felt to be incomplete. It has remained incomplete until today.

When the arch in the Peace Tower was constructed, the sense of proportion of the architect confirmed the judgment of the fathers who had planned confederation. With only nine shields, no balance could be achieved that would satisfy the requirements of beauty and symmetry. And so the arch, like the union, was unfinished until the people of Newfoundland decided to join in the union which their representatives originally helped to plan. The people of Newfoundland have now so decided. The arch and the union will now be complete.

While I have not yet had occasion to visit Newfoundland, the qualities of its people are by no means unknown to me. The reputation established by the Royal Newfoundland regiment in the war of 1914-18 will always be a source of pride to the island whose sons that regiment made famous. In the last war I had under my own command in Italy the 166th (Newfoundland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery,