

The Result

In commenting on the results of the vote, most newspapers used round figures, 5,000 being given as the number voting for Confederation over Responsible Government. Practically every newspaper considered the result very close. Among the expressions used were the following: "a narrow majority" (*Toronto Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Evening Telegram*); "so small" (*Ottawa Journal*, *Winnipeg Tribune*); "a slim one" (*Edmonton Journal*, *Brantford Expositor*); "close" (*Victoria Daily Times*); "small but decisive" (*Vancouver Sun*); "slim," "skinny" (*Halifax Herald*); "a bare majority" (*Hamilton Spectator*); "a small majority" (*Windsor Daily Star*); "photo finish" (*London Free Press*); "a modest majority" (*Montreal Gazette*); "all but inconclusive" (*Sydney Post-Record*); "size of the majority is immaterial" (*Ottawa Citizen*); "not strong enough" (*Vancouver News-Herald*).

Is it a Large Enough Majority?

The closeness of the vote caused many newspapers to recall the statement of Prime Minister King that Newfoundlanders would have to indicate their will "clearly and beyond all possibility of misunderstanding."

The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, drawing attention to Mr. King's views as having been made when the island's people were voting for three choices, says it is possible that the Prime Minister meant that a vote giving first choice, but not a clear majority, to Confederation would be regarded as inadequate. Canada's case for a clear majority was described as not a reluctance on Canada's part to receive Newfoundland into Confederation, but because the "seeds of future discontent might be sown if a large minority of Newfoundlanders could claim with any justice that they were hurried or railroaded into union."

The *Ottawa Journal* declared that if Canada holds "the majority for union is too small to justify our accepting," Newfoundlanders might "throw in their lot" with the United States.

The *Winnipeg Tribune* says it is felt in some quarters "that the commission which now governs Newfoundland has the responsibility of deciding whether to proceed immediately with the process of Confederation or whether to delay the process in the hope of securing a greater degree of unanimity."

Referring to the remarks of the Secretary of State for External Affairs that if Newfoundland reports a majority in favour of Confederation that will be accepted as final, the *Edmonton Journal* regards this as a "sound position." But making conditions now as to the number of people who must vote for Confederation "would be bitterly — and justly — resented by the island's supporters." The *Edmonton Journal* sees no reason why Newfoundland should not be absorbed as an "integral part of Canada."

The *Victoria Daily Times*, also referring to Mr. St. Laurent's remarks, said it was likely Canada would accept Newfoundland as a tenth province if Newfoundland sees fit to apply for inclusion with the Dominion.

The *Vancouver Sun* and the *Ottawa Citizen* ran editorials under similar titles, "Welcome, Newfoundland!" and both took the view that Confederation is just a matter of time. *The Citizen* regarded the size of the vote as immaterial and said