

decisive margin. The *Free Press* admits that something should be done but warns that few Canadians are so enamoured of the possibility of Newfoundland "as a tenth province, that they have any wish to cram Confederation down the throats of those who don't want it."

The *Montreal Gazette* says that "the modest majority for Confederation scarcely meets Mr. King's prerequisite of a clear decision. It says that "Canada cannot now refuse to recognize the validity of the vote for Confederation; or should conceive that the minority will not loyally accept that decision." The *Sydney Post-Record* says that "if Ottawa stands by its commitment to a clear and conclusive decision it cannot very well invite the Newfoundlanders into Confederation — yet."

The *Ottawa Citizen* says that Canada welcomes Newfoundland as a 10th province.

The *Vancouver News Herald* points to the result as being "not strong enough for immediate Confederation."

The *Brantford Expositor* is doubtful that the majority vote will be regarded by the Canadian Government as substantial.

The inclusion of Newfoundland into Confederation, says the *Montreal Standard*, is desirable "in view of physical position, so imperative in view of strategic considerations." The paper regards union with Canada as accomplished.

Conclusion

Of the 18 newspapers examined, 11 would welcome Newfoundland as a 10th province; five are against union of Newfoundland with Canada, and two are non-committal.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Relations avec le Commonwealth
de Grande-Bretagne au haut commissaire de Grande-Bretagne
Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations of Great Britain
to High Commissioner of Great Britain*

TELEGRAM 699

London, July 26, 1948

IMMEDIATE. SECRET AND PERSONAL. Newfoundland. Following from Machtig, Begins: I have today received private letter from Gordon Macdonald dated July 23rd. He asks that this should be treated as very private mainly, of course, because he does not wish anyone in Newfoundland to know that he has written in this way. I think, however, that you should have for your own background what he says and I am repeating main portions accordingly. Begins:

The result of the referendum would give Confederation at least five thousand majority. Having in mind the campaign that preceded the second referendum, I consider it a fine achievement. Possibly the most encouraging feature is the countrywide distribution of the Confederate vote. They have a majority in eighteen districts out of the twenty-five.