

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND WITH CANADA

An account of the ceremonies held on April 1, 1949, at St. John's and Ottawa, to celebrate the Union; including the texts of speeches delivered by His Excellency the Governor General; the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent; the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson; the newly appointed Secretary of State, Mr. Bradley; and the new Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland, Sir Albert Walsh.

(Reprinted from Hansard of April 1, 1949)

Broadcast from St. John's Newfoundland:

Commentator: I am speaking to you now from Government House, in St. John's, the official residence of all governors of Newfoundland since about 1832 when responsible government was first introduced into the island. In this building all our governors and administrators of government since that time have taken their oaths of allegiance and office, and it is eminently fitting that here should be sworn in also the first Lieutenant Governor of this new province of Canada.

Present in these rooms are His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor Designate, the Honourable Albert Walsh, K.C.; His Lordship, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Edward Emerson, who will administer the oaths. Also present are the judges of the Supreme Court; the heads of the various churches; representatives of Canada, the United States, France, Portugal; the mayor of St. John's, permanent heads of the local government; the Prime Minister Designate and his colleagues; representative citizens and their wives, and members of the local and foreign press, numbering in all about one hundred.

The ceremony today will be a brief but nonetheless impressive one. It will open with the singing of the Ode to Newfoundland by a choir under the direction of Mr. Robert McLeod. Following this you will hear the reading of the commission of the Lieutenant Governor. Then follows the highlight of this afternoon's ceremony, when the Chief Justice, Sir Edward Emerson, will administer the oaths of allegiance and office to the first Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Sir Albert Walsh, K.C. Following this, Honourable Colin Gibson, a member of the Canadian government, will present to His Honour token Canadian citizenship papers, and, in accepting on behalf of the people of Newfoundland, Sir Albert will reply. This will conclude the ceremony at St. John's. The proceedings at Ottawa will follow immediately.

Now, all is in readiness for the ceremony here at Government House.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Ode to Newfoundland.

(Here followed the singing by the choir of two verses of the Ode to Newfoundland.)