

the inference was that the Canadian Government would be prepared to accept a majority vote. He felt that if the Canadian Government were now to take any other course and demand an arbitrary number or percentage over a majority or to say that Responsible Government should first be restored, it would be a breach of faith with the people of Newfoundland. In such an event he personally would have nothing more to do with Confederation or the Canadian Government. He felt that some of his friends would feel the same way.

Mr. McEvoy also felt it would be thoroughly bad tactics from the Canadian standpoint. The majority of the people of Newfoundland would inevitably feel that they had been rebuffed. There was no assurance under these circumstances that many people would not vote against Confederation at another opportunity. The restoration of Responsible Government first, in his opinion, might well result in a majority of the first legislature opposed to Confederation. This would probably mean that Confederation would be put off indefinitely. He had hoped that Newfoundland could be a partner in an enlarged British Dominion. He did not know what course Newfoundland might follow if the majority were now refused by Canada.

With regard to the sectarian basis of the vote, Mr. McEvoy, who is a devout Roman Catholic, admitted freely that a great majority of Roman Catholics on the Avalon Peninsula had voted for Responsible Government. He felt that this was due mainly to a few chance remarks which the Archbishop was alleged to have made. He felt personally that there was no question of faith or morals involved and that if, as alleged, the Archbishop had made such remarks, he was straying out of his proper field. He said that a considerable number of Roman Catholics, however, had voted for Confederation in this area and he knew personally [that] on the West Coast most Roman Catholics, including a number of priests, had voted in favour. Another member present cited subsequently two priests on the west coast who had participated actively in favour, one presiding at meetings.

Mr. McEvoy admitted that an editorial in the *Monitor*, the organ of the hierarchy, had unfortunately started the sectarian issue. He pointed out, however, that there was a retreat from this stand before the second referendum but that unfortunately the Orange Order had by this time taken up the issue. He did not think, however, that the sectarian issue, although always latent in Newfoundland, would necessarily continue over Confederation, once the union was completed.

Mr. McEvoy also dealt with the charge that the vote for Confederation was a class vote. He pointed to numerous examples of supporters of Confederation among the St. John's merchants and fish exporters. He said representatives of the trade and of Water Street present did not comprise all supporters of Confederation among business men. There were many others who had not come out openly. The fresh fish industry were in favour of Confederation to a man. (These views were supported by Mr. Brooks, who said that several of the merchants were beginning to appreciate the value of continuous flow of purchasing power which would result from Children's Allowances, Old Age Pensions, and other social services. Mr. Lake, who last year did the biggest export business in salt fish in Newfoundland, supported this view and said further that even the salt fish trade,