

9. Confederation, Mr. Lake said, would help the Newfoundland fisheries by bringing down the cost of living and the cost of production and hence making competition easier. Moreover, he said, the Canadian Government takes its responsibilities for protecting and encouraging the fishing industry seriously. Newfoundland would enjoy the services of Canada's famous Department of Trade and Commerce, which has played its part in making Canada the third biggest trading nation in the world and the richest country per capita in the world. Moreover, Canada has a Fisheries Prices Support Board which is Government operated and which steps in and buys fish if it is hard to sell or if the price falls to an unduly low level. He said that \$25,000,000 have already been put at the disposal of the Board and that it can get another \$25,000,000 any time it wants it.

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12. On Saturday night the radio also carried two broadcasts in the interests of Responsible Government — one, like Mr. Lake's, over the country-wide hookup and the other over station VOXM only. The former presented Mr. C. C. Pratt, prominent Newfoundland businessman and brother of Professor E. J. Pratt, the Canadian poet. [ . . . ]

13. Mr. Pratt's speech contained rather more straight Responsible Government propaganda and somewhat less objectively reasoned words of caution than his previous addresses on the political question. He still says that in voting for Confederation Newfoundlanders are "taking a leap in the dark" but in supporting this contention he sounds more like Mr. Albert Perlin than he used to. It is difficult to determine whether this means that Mr. Pratt is really fundamentally opposed to Confederation or whether it simply indicates an urgent desire on his part at the present time to forestall Confederation being brought about on the present terms.

14. He himself declares that if Confederation "is properly studied, energetically negotiated and found applicable to the needs of our people," Newfoundlanders would be protecting their country, not selling it, by entering into political association with Canada. However, at the present time Confederation "as it stands, reveals none of these essentials . . . . All the delegation did or could do was to find how Confederation works in Canada. What we want to know is how it will work in this country. Of that we still have no knowledge. I am unalterably opposed to voting in favour of Confederation under those conditions."

15. Mr. Pratt added that he is sure that "with the expression of sentiment given at the recent referendum, it is evident that under Responsible Government Confederation will be an issue in the future. The people of Newfoundland can then have a say as to how it will be handled."

16. Mr. Pratt argued that the Canadian Government has underestimated the revenue it would derive from Newfoundland. Instead of \$900,000 from tobacco and liquor taxes, he declares that, "based on our present consumption of these two commodities and on present rates of taxation in Canada," Newfoundland would pay to the Canadian exchequer more than \$6,000,000. He says that he has had his figures carefully checked "by competent sources" and that they cannot be contradicted. He goes on to assert that he feels very sure that the Federal Government would collect at least two or three times the amount of \$2,000,000 which we