

shape as some of us have been led to believe. There is only one government in the island. There are no provincial governments, and outside of the city of St. John's, the capital, there is no municipal government. The estimated receipts and expenditures of Newfoundland for the year 1940-1941 are as follows: ordinary expenditure, \$13,825,091; reconstruction expenditure, \$1,534,874, and special expenditure, \$90,000. This is a total of \$15,449,965. The revenue is estimated at \$13,525,116. This leaves a deficit of \$1,924,849, which is not a very bad showing in view of the fact that Newfoundland, like every other country, has spent a great deal of money in fitting her boys to go overseas.

We hear a great deal about the public debt. If this Government decided to approach the British Government, the public debt would be a subject for consideration. Newfoundland's debt covers everything, including what we call provincial, municipal and federal debt. First of all, there is a bonded indebtedness of £17,790,000 at three per cent. In addition there is an amount of £58,759, also at three per cent, which is guaranteed by the Government of the United Kingdom, and there is a bank loan of \$625,000, at three per cent. To show you how closely we are related to Newfoundland, I may say that this loan was advanced by the four Canadian banks doing business in Newfoundland, and was guaranteed by the Dominion Government. Then there is the war loan of 1940, amounting to \$1,500,000, with interest at the rate of three and three-quarters per cent. The total interest on all these debts amounts to \$2,723,293.

I think we all agree that Nova Scotia is one of the best administered provinces in the Dominion. The provincial public debt of that province, after sinking funds have been deducted, is—I give the net figure—\$72,000,000 as compared with Newfoundland's \$120,000,000 for all purposes. But in Nova Scotia there are in addition, in the different municipalities, debts amounting to \$31,000,000. Then you will find that Nova Scotia's proportion of the federal debt amounts to \$160,000,000, and its proportion of the railway debt is \$90,000,000, these figures making a total of \$353,000,000.

This being so, it seems to me that in any discussion about Newfoundland entering Confederation the question of debt would not have very much bearing. Whether it has or not, I respectfully submit to the Government and to the leader of the Government in this House that at this time, when Great Britain is fighting for her life and is burdened with heavy cares and responsibilities, and particularly in view of the fact that the United States and Canada have joined with Great Britain on the matter of the defences

Hon. Mr. DUFF.

of the northern part of the western hemisphere, a plebiscite should be taken in Newfoundland, if necessary, in order to ascertain the feeling of the people. There might be some objection to that in Newfoundland, but I think the great majority of the people now realize the mistake they made a number of years ago when they declined to join with us, and they would now be glad to come in and form part of this great Dominion. My principal purpose in rising at this time is to suggest that instead of six months, a year or two years being spent on this question, it could be settled in a very short time by five business men from this Chamber, including a lawyer, and five business men from Newfoundland, also including a lawyer. They would decide within a few hours whether it would be a good thing for Newfoundland, under certain pertinent conditions, to become part of Canada. I respectfully suggest to my honourable friend the leader of the Government in this House that he submit this proposal to his colleagues. In the first place, however, some stated policy should be submitted to the British Government for the purpose of ascertaining how it would regard the entrance of Newfoundland into Confederation.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I do not intend to take up much of your time this afternoon. I trust that the honourable gentleman who has just spoken (Hon. Mr. Duff) will not feel hurt if I do not follow him in his remarks. First I should like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address, the honourable senators from Sorel (Hon. Mr. David) and from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden). I was glad to hear what the honourable gentleman from Sorel said about the province of Quebec and its people. They are part of Canada, and unless they and we, the English-speaking people of this country, are united, we cannot achieve the maximum possibilities Canada holds for us. I was much interested in the remarks of the honourable gentleman from Toronto; but, if I may say so, I think he knows more about sugar than he does about wheat. While I agree that it might be a good thing to have a committee of inquiry investigate possible uses for our surplus wheat, I am persuaded that the quantity which could be diverted to the uses suggested by the honourable gentleman would be only a drop in the bucket as compared with the crop the Prairies are capable and desirous of producing.

I have no criticism to make of the speeches delivered by the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) and the right honourable leader on this side (Right Hon.