

independence was unsound; that the close proximity of my native island to the mainland constituted a clear call for union with Canada; that the allegiance to one Crown, which we have always shared with Canada, beckoned us westward; that the identity of our principles and traditions pointed in the same direction.

All these considerations led irrevocably to but one conclusion -- that Macdonald, Brown and Cartier, and Carter and Shea, were right; and I am happy that this day has come in my time.

I suppose that this union will make hardly any appreciable impression upon the lives of the citizens of Canada of yesterday, but to the people of the new province the changes will be deep and abiding.

In some matters they will lose that exclusiveness of control of their own destinies which they have heretofore enjoyed, and in return they acquire a share in the councils of a great nation -- the new Canada -- of which they have become a part; they must accustom themselves to a new system of government -- the federal system -- which links them with all Canadians and yet assures them of a continuance of that identity of which they have always been so proud. They will experience new channelings of trade, new standards of social legislation, new methods of taxation, and a new measure of responsibility as citizens of the New Canada.

Confederation in the days of Macdonald was perhaps comparatively simple, but in the complexities and uncertainties of our modern world it is inevitable that in the process of adjustment to their changed status there will be stresses and strains. We shall have to meet these problems as they arise within the next few months, and perhaps the next few years; and yet out of the experience of the past we may confidently expect that they will not prove as difficult in the future.

Indeed, that process of adjustment has already begun, and we Newfoundland Canadians have been deeply impressed by the speedy recognition of our problems by those whom I may term the older Canadians, and their sincere desire to co-operate with us in effecting the transition as smoothly and with as little dislocation as possible.

Thus we begin life as one people in an atmosphere of unity. We are all Canadians now. Now, as never before, can it be said of this land that her bounds extend from sea to sea. From the eastern shores of the new Province of Newfoundland to the coast of British Columbia let us go forward together with faith in the principles and traditions which we hold in common. Thus shall we grow in strength and prosperity. Thus will the prophetic vision of that great Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when he said that the twentieth century belonged to Canada, be acknowledged by the whole world.

#### Inscribing the Arms of Newfoundland on the Peace Tower

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The dominating feature of the capital of Canada is the tower before which we now are standing. It has become known, through visit or photograph or painting, to almost every Canadian. To Canadians it is a symbol of our confederation, and of its spirit and character.

The tower arose out of the ashes of the old parliament building which was destroyed by fire in 1916. When it was built it was dedicated to peace, and on the arch of its base were inscribed the coats of arms of the nine provinces of Canada. The architects and stone-cutters charged with the work, however, carved ten shields instead of nine. One was left blank for the day, which the Fathers of Confederation had foreseen, when Newfoundland would join Canada. That day has come.