

cluding on September 29 (Appendix 2). On October 29, 1947, the Prime Minister of Canada wrote to the Governor of Newfoundland, enclosing a statement of "Terms believed to constitute a fair and equitable basis of union with Canada should the people of Newfoundland desire to enter into Confederation" (Appendix 3). These terms were discussed at length by the National Convention and were before the people in the referendum which followed.

The National Convention, before concluding its sessions, resolved by unanimous vote to recommend that two questions, restoration of responsible government and continuation of commission of government, should be included on the referendum ballot; but by a vote of 29 to 16 declined to recommend that confederation with Canada should also be included. The United Kingdom Government concluded, however, that "it would not be right that the people of Newfoundland should be deprived of an opportunity of considering the issue at the referendum", since the terms offered by the Canadian Government had been the result of long discussions with a body of Newfoundlanders elected to the Convention; since the issues had apparently been sufficiently clarified to enable the people to express an opinion on the question; and having regard to the number of members in the Convention who had supported its inclusion on the ballot. The United Kingdom Government also decided that the question of continuation of commission of government should contain the limiting clause, "for a further period of five years." (Appendix 4.)

The first poll in the referendum was held on June 3, 1948, with the following result: for continuation of commission of government for a five-year period, 22,311; for confederation with Canada, 64,006; for restoration of responsible government, 69,400.

As provided under the conditions for the referendum laid down by the United Kingdom Government, no form of government having received a majority of the votes cast, a second poll was held on July 22, 1948, on the two forms receiving the most votes: restoration of responsible government, and confederation with Canada. In this poll, in which almost 85 per cent of the total eligible voters cast their ballots, confederation led with 78,323 votes, responsible government receiving 71,334 votes (Appendix 5).

On July 30, 1948, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that, in view of the fact that a definite majority of the high percentage of the electorate which had voted had expressed its wishes in favour of Confederation, it seemed that the result was "clear and beyond possibility of misunderstanding." He stated that the Government would be glad to receive with the least possible delay authorized representatives of Newfoundland to negotiate the terms of union on the basis of the proposals of the previous year. He stated further: "In these negotiations any special problems which may arise in connection with the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation will, I am sure, receive most careful consideration", but that no final decision would of course be taken without the approval of Parliament (Appendix 6).

A Newfoundland delegation of seven members, under the chairmanship of the Honourable A. J. Walsh, K.C., Vice-Chairman of the Commission of Government, was appointed shortly thereafter by the Governor in Commission (Appendix 7). This delegation arrived in Ottawa on October 5, and negotiations commenced the following day (Appendix 9). On December 11 a memorandum of agreement was signed by six members of the Newfoundland delegation on behalf of Newfoundland and by the Prime Minister and the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs on behalf of Canada (Sections II and III).