

SPRINGDALE STREET SCHOLARS DEBATE THE QUESTION OF CONFEDERATION WITH CANADA

A debate on Confederation took place at the Commercial Night School on Monday evening last, and was keenly contested. Mr. Sydney Pelley, in the absence of Mr. H. Harrett, the leader of the Affirmative, opened the debate from a patriotic point of view, contending that unity was strength and that by joining with Canada we would be still more united and, therefore, more patriotic. Newfoundland would be fortified by Canada or even by Britain, at Canada's request. Better transportation facilities would be afforded, by railways and steamships, and practical, competent men placed at the head of our various departments, so that first of all the fisheries, the mainstay of the country, would receive more consideration than at present. A bonus would be given to the fishermen the same as in Canada, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Duty would be taken off, then business would advance and living would be cheaper. More money would be granted for agriculture, experimental farms, schools and lighthouses. Better roads and bridges would be built by the peo-

ple honourably, without depending upon the government to build them for them. A militia would be maintained at the expense of the whole Dominion, and as Newfoundland is the worse off of the two, therefore, it would benefit her better. He believed it would benefit our financial condition, because our public debt is \$118 per capita, while Canada's is about \$50. Their earning power or per capita revenue is also higher, namely \$20.21 per capita, and their expenditure less. Canada's population in 1914 was 8,075,000 people. Her expenditure per head is \$15.00 (taken from Canada Year Book, 1915.) which Newfoundland's population is 242,619 people and her revenue and expenditure are each \$16.00 per head. We spend all we earn. (Newfoundland Year Book, 1914.) Therefore, by making Newfoundland equal we would benefit in every way. Industries would be started, and would give more employment. Small factories would be bought out by big ones that would boom Newfoundland. The duty taken off provisions and vegetables would make living cheaper. Capital would

be brought into the country, the income and property taxes would be more just than the present tariffs, and by intercourse with Canadians, Newfoundlanders would tend to gain in smartness, and there is no reason why a Newfoundland could not become Prime Minister of Canada and be represented in the Imperial Parliament as well. When the war drum beats no longer, in the Parliament of men, and the Federation of the world, He asked all to vote for Confederation. The leaders of the Negative side, Mr. G. J. Hawkins and Mr. C. Barnes, followed their opponent and ably refuted his statements, pointing out that it would mean giving up our independence, now and forever. The increased revenue in Canada, quoted over Newfoundland's was merely a proof that people there were taxed more than we are. Confederation would mean unbearable taxation of our fishermen, farmers, workmen and merchants, and would drive thousands of people out of the country as a result, the same as it did in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, where the population is steadily declining in favour of Upper Canada, that gets the cream of the country. Newfoundland would get the dregs. Also when Nova Scotia was actually forced into Confederation, many of her factories had to close down owing

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Fishermen's Union Trading Co'y.

Allies Will Win War in Two Years Declares Edison

Men, Money and Ability to Get Things to Carry it on Will Eventually Triumph
TALKS ON 69TH BIRTHDAY
Advises Cutting Down of Diet to One-Third, Drink no Whiskey, and Opposes the Cigarette

ORANGE, N.J., Feb. 22.—Thomas A. Edison celebrated his sixty-ninth birthday by doing just what he has done almost every day of his life, and the thing he likes most to do. He worked hard. He gave himself over to the newspaper men for a few minutes, but two things were taboo—politics and the navy. He was brought back to his work again. "I'm just playing chess with nature," was the way he described what he was doing.

"You were late to work this morning," one of the reporters remarked. "Well, you see, they dragged me over to New York to dinner last night and I didn't get home until 2 o'clock this morning. And I didn't get to work until nearly 9 o'clock this morning."

Here is what the wizard has to say about eating:

"Cut your food down to one-third or one-fourth of what you have been eating. I eat three meals a day. That's habit and nothing else. But I eat a quarter of what the average man does. I know it, because I see it at my own table.

Prohibition is a subject that always interests Mr. Edison.

"Man isn't perfect yet and you can't take alcohol away from him all at once. If you do he will resent the fact. Let men drink beer that has a percentage of alcohol of 2 or 1.34 per cent for twenty years or so and then cut it down to 1 per cent. Cut out all whiskey and strong drinks at once.

"The theory is this: Every man's stomach is about the same size. Beer with 2 per cent of alcohol will never make the average man drunk because he wouldn't be able to get enough in his stomach to get drunk. It must be done through federal regulation that's the only way. Prohibition is going to become world-wide."

If there is anything in this world that carries the Edison stamp of disapproval it is the cigarette.

"I'd have a Sullivan Law against them for anyone under 21," he said, and he added that he'd just as soon see a man with a revolver as a boy with a cigarette.

Of the war he said:

"The Allies will win, but the war will last two years longer. Men money and the ability to get things necessary to carry on the war will win the day eventually. This country will not become involved and the worst that will happen is probably the breaking off of diplomatic relations."

He would not discuss Wilson's policies or the Lusitania.

HON. MR. BURRELL MAY GO SOUTH FOR HEALTH
Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Owing to the nervous shock and injuries sustained in the Parliament Building fire, from which he is but slowly recovering, it is doubtful whether Hon. Martin Burrell will be able to resume his duties this season. He will probably go south for a period of convalescence.

Happy is the statesman who never has to rush into print to explain anything.

A fatal flirtation is one that ends at the marriage altar.

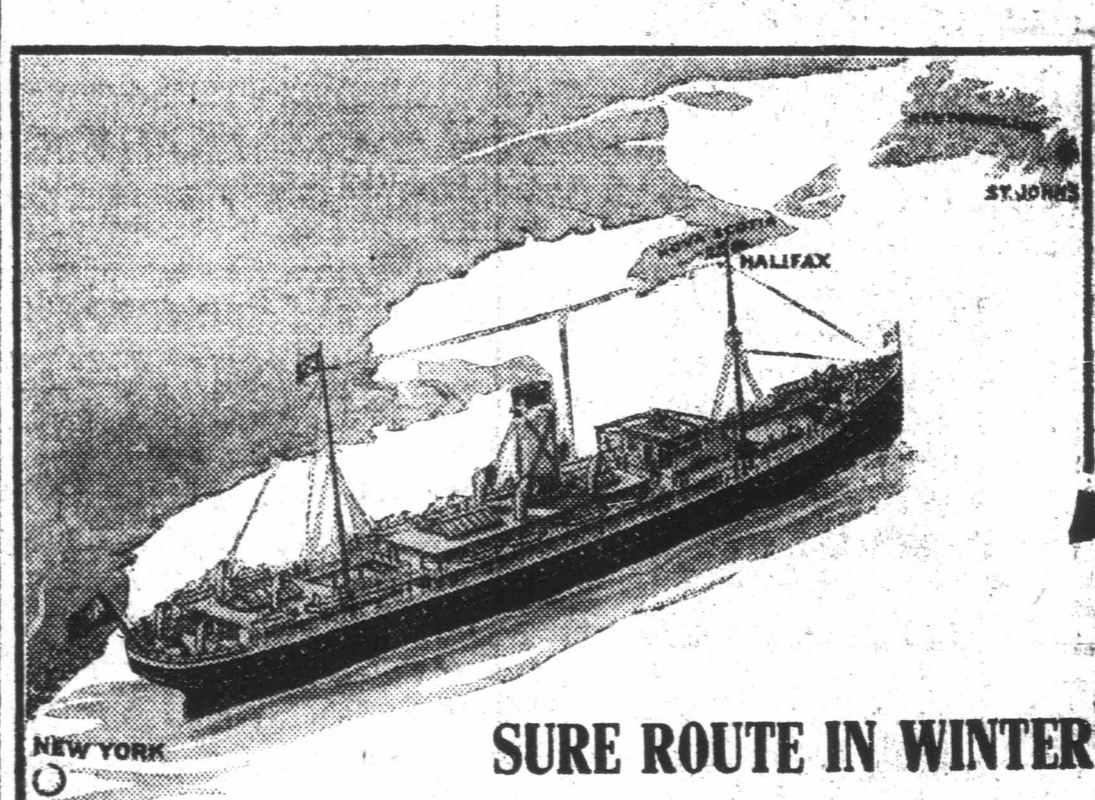
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