

gratulate ourselves that we have successfully surmounted these difficulties in such a relatively short space of time.

Now at last we have reached agreement and the terms of agreement for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation have been signed. The date of union on which we have set our sights is March 31, 1949. Upon that day, I profoundly hope we shall see the fruition of our work. Some details in our agreement may not meet the approbation of all. But I would ask those who may not be satisfied with every detail to think of the general good which flows from this historic act. It is my sincere hope—and my belief—that the future will find the vast majority of people in what is now Canada and the vast majority of people in Newfoundland in continued and warm agreement as to the justice and wisdom of these terms of the union.

Advantages Mutual

The entry of Newfoundland into Confederation will, I am confident, be of mutual advantage to both parties. When, over 81 years ago, the plans for the union of the British colonies of North America were being drafted, the problem of defence and security was in the minds of a good many people who favoured union. During two wars, Canada and Newfoundland have worked in exceedingly close co-operation for mutual defence and the achievement of victory. The question of defence and security is very much in our minds again today. With Newfoundland forming the tenth province of Canada, I think that both we in Canada and you in Newfoundland will feel more secure than heretofore in this troubled world.

Union will bring our two peoples much closer together. That, to my mind, will be its most important consequence. Already we have much in common. We enjoy the same heritage. We have the same political traditions. We are certainly not strangers to each other. Now we shall be able to cultivate to the full our old associations and to build new ones. As Mr. Bradley said when the delegation from the National Convention came to Ottawa in June, of 1947, "should Newfoundland become the tenth province of your Canadian Union, you will be receiving as a partner a proud people eager and determined to pull their weight in generous measure". Canadians are equally "eager and determined to pull their weight".

Canada has made tremendous strides in the eighty-one years that have passed since the four original provinces joined in Confederation on July 1, 1867. We are a united people. Our strength, both physical and economic, has increased many fold. We are prosperous. But we have not ceased working for an ever-brighter future, with increased well-being and security for our people. In Confederation, the people of Newfoundland will share all the advantages now enjoyed by the rest of the Canadian people of whom they will then form a part.

Sur un pied d'égalité

Je tiens à dire un mot du caractère essentiel de la nation canadienne. Et pour mieux souligner ce caractère essentiel, je m'exprime maintenant en français. Notre nation, dont vous êtes à la veille de faire partie, repose sur l'association, sur un pied d'égalité, des deux grandes races qui sont si intimement mêlées à l'histoire de Terre-Neuve aussi bien qu'à celle du Canada. Notre pays a deux langues officielles et deux cultures qui, bien que parentes, sont distinctes, ont des affinités étroites. Mais nous ne formons qu'un seul peuple. Nous sommes heureux de vous recevoir, vous de Terre-Neuve, dans cette nation. Nous sommes convaincus que vous travaillerez avec nous à maintenir ce caractère distinctif de la nation canadienne, dont sir John A. Macdonald disait, peu avant la fin de sa vie, il y a près de soixante ans: "Nous