

3. When Mr. Lake spoke he was introduced by Dr. Will Roberts, who declared with feeling that he cannot be other than a Confederate because he is convinced that it offers Newfoundlanders their only hope for a decent way of life free of the fear of depression, want, and disease. He urged Newfoundlanders not to be fools and take another chance on Responsible Government, but rather to choose the certain prospects of a better future offered by Confederation.

4. Mr. Lake announced that he was going to give his views on the effect Confederation would have on the Newfoundland fisheries. He said that he had been engaged in the fishing industry all his life, as his father had before him, and that his own future and that of his firm is completely tied up in the future of the salt fish industry. He is not only a producer of fish, but a broker on behalf of smaller firms as well. In 1946 he marketed more than 100,000 quintals for twenty separate firms.

5. Mr. Lake went on to say that he also understands the salt cod industry in its wider aspects. He has been a member of exporters' associations for many years, being at present a member of the Salt Codfish Exporters Association and of N.A.F.E.L.

6. Clearly, he said, he could not believe in Confederation as he does if he thought that it would damage the salt cod industry or that it would mean the end of the Fisheries Board and of N.A.F.E.L. He declared that he does not believe the exaggerated assertions of Responsible Government propagandists that Confederation would ruin the fisheries and spell the end of the Fisheries Board. On the other hand he is afraid that a return to Responsible Government, placing the fisheries at the mercy of a local Minister of Marine and Fisheries, would mean the end of the Fisheries Board as presently constituted. Furthermore, Responsible Government would, in itself, gravely jeopardize Newfoundland's fisheries because this is a shaky world and Newfoundland exporters would be running terrible risks in embarking on it once again by themselves. He ventured to suggest that all the talk about Confederation spelling ruin for the fisheries is merely a red herring served up by the advocates of Responsible Government to turn fishermen's minds away from the very real danger which would confront the fisheries if Responsible Government were restored.

7. Mr. Lake listed a number of prominent fish exporters who believe in Confederation and are convinced that it will help the fisheries and fishermen. He cited Mr. A. H. Monroe, Mr. Cy Moores, Mr. George Penney, Sir Leonard Outerbridge, Mr. Thomas Ashbourne, and Mr. Eric Bowering. The last two are important exporters of salt fish and the first four, although chiefly in the fresh fish business, also export considerable quantities of salt cod.

8. Mr. Lake said that the southwest coast of Newfoundland is the most strongly Confederate part of the Island and that virtually everyone depends for his livelihood on fishing. On the southwest coast the fresh fish industry and the salt fish industry are, from the point of view of the producer, virtually one. The people of the southwest coast understand Canada better than do people from any other part of Newfoundland. They know Canadian fishermen and the Canadian fishing industry, and nothing would please them better than that their own industry should become part of the larger Canadian enterprise.