

ment received about 69,000 votes; Confederation, about 63,000; and continuation of Commission of Government for a five-year term about 22,000 votes. In accordance with the conditions of the referendum previously announced by the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, since no form of government received an absolute majority a further vote was required on the two forms receiving most votes. The second referendum was accordingly held on July 22nd with the results noted above.

On July 30th, 1948, the Prime Minister of Canada said in a public announcement that the result of the referendum was "clear and beyond all possibility of misunderstanding", and that the Government, and he believed the people of Canada, welcomed the result. He said further: "The Government will also be glad to receive with the least possible delay authorized representatives of Newfoundland to negotiate the terms of union on the basis of my letter of October 29th, 1947, to the Governor of Newfoundland and the document transmitted with it. 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. Before final action is taken, the Government will recommend the resulting agreement to Parliament."

#### FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS

On August 5th, the Governor of Newfoundland informed the Canadian Government that the following had been appointed to meet the Canadian Government in the forthcoming negotiations: the Honourable Albert J. Walsh, K.C., Chairman, F. Gordon Bradley, Esq., K.C., LL.B., Chesley A. Crosbie, Esq., Philip Gruchy, Esq., John B. McEvoy, Esq., K.C., LL.B., Joseph R. Smallwood, Esq., Gordon A. Winter, Esq. No announcement has yet been made as to the date on which meetings between Newfoundland

and Canadian delegations will commence.

Completion of the union will, of course, require time. Although no precise date for union has yet been announced, the Canadian Government on August 7th advised the Governor of Newfoundland that in its opinion it would not be practicable to effect union before March 31st, 1949.

The incorporation of Newfoundland into Confederation will round out Canada as it was foreseen by the Fathers of Confederation. Representatives of Newfoundland took part in the historic conference at Quebec in 1864 when the broad outlines of Confederation were charted, and provision was made by Section 146 of the British North America Act for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation, as well as for British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Although Newfoundland subsequently rejected union, the door has thus always remained open. As the Prime Minister put it in his announcement on July 30th, union will thus "bring to completion a constructive partnership foreseen by those men of courage and vision in both countries who, many years ago, began the work of Confederation."

The essential documents follow:

Office of the Prime Minister  
Ottawa, October 29, 1947.

His Excellency

Sir Gordon MacDonald, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of Newfoundland,  
St. John's, Newfoundland.

My Dear Governor,--On March 20, 1947, at the request of the National Convention of Newfoundland, you enquired whether the Government would receive a delegation which had been appointed by the Convention to come to Ottawa to ascertain what fair and equitable basis for union with Canada might exist. The Government of Canada replied that it would be happy to receive this delegation, and that it was "of the opinion that the

questions to be discussed with the delegation are of such complexity and of such significance for both countries that it is essential to have a complete and comprehensive exchange of information and a full and careful exploration by both parties of all the issues involved so that an accurate appreciation of the position may be gained on each side."

As you know, a delegation from the National Convention came to Ottawa late in June returning to Newfoundland early in October. During their visit to Ottawa they met from time to time with a committee of the Canadian Cabinet to exchange information and explore the many questions that would be involved in union. On their return to Newfoundland the delegation of the Convention took with them a report of these discussions which it is hoped will be of use to the National Convention.

Following the discussions the committee of the Cabinet which met with the delegation advised their colleagues that in their opinion a basis for union exists that would be fair and equitable to both countries. The Government having considered and approved the recommendations of the committee of the Cabinet, I am now in a position to advise you regarding the arrangements which the Government would be prepared to recommend to Parliament as a basis for union. These proposed arrangements are set forth in the document annexed to this letter.

I feel I must emphasize that as far as the financial aspects of the proposed arrangements for union are concerned, the Government of Canada believes that the arrangements go as far as the Government can go under the circumstances. The Government could not readily contemplate any change in these arrangements which would impose larger financial burdens on Canada. On the other hand, with respect to those matters which are primarily of provincial