

## REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

**UNION WITH NEWFOUNDLAND:** The House of Commons, on Wednesday, February 16, approved the resolution asking the United Kingdom Parliament to confirm the Union of Newfoundland with Canada. The final passage involved a division in which the resolution was adopted by a vote of 140 to 74. Opposing were 61 Progressive Conservative members, nine members of the Social Credit group, and four Quebec members: Messrs. Dorion, Lacroix, Hamel and Pouliot.

The discussions which preceded the final passage of the resolution were marked by an address by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Drew, in which he continued to protest against the procedure adopted by the Government and renewed his insistence upon the advisability of consultation with the Provinces. The former Prime Minister, Mr. King, also delivered in this discussion his first speech as a private member.

On Tuesday, February 15, an amendment and a sub-amendment to the formal address to be sent to the United Kingdom Parliament, asking for confirmation of the Terms of Union, had been defeated.

The amendment, proposed by the Leader of

the Opposition, Mr. Drew, would have deleted the words, "A humble address be presented to His Majesty the King in the following words:" - and would have substituted the following:

"And whereas it is desirable that the Government of Canada should consult with the Governments of the several Provinces in respect to the said matter.

"Now therefore be it resolved, that the Government of Canada be required to consult at once the Governments of the several Provinces and that upon a satisfactory conclusion of such consultations a humble address be presented to His Majesty in the following words:--"

This was defeated by a vote of 137 to 66.

The sub-amendment, proposed by Mr. Lacroix, proposed that the words "after they will have given their consent" be substituted for the words "upon a satisfactory conclusion of such consultation" in the last paragraph of the amendment.

This was defeated 191 to 12.

The debate on union with Newfoundland occupied the House during the greater part of eight-days.

**MR. HUNTER'S APPOINTMENT:** Appointment of George Richard Hunter, prominent young lawyer from Winnipeg, to the position of Secretary of the Royal Commission on National Transportation is announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. Preliminary meetings have already been held by the three Commissioners, the Honourable W.F.A. Turgeon, (Chairman), Professor H.F. Angus and Professor H.A. Innis. Mr. Hunter was formerly Executive Assistant to the Honourable D.C. Abbott, both in the Department of National Defence and later in the Department of Finance.

**SALUTE TO SWEDEN:** Six former RCAF officers and the Swedish-born wife of one of them on February 16 broadcast greetings to the kindly folk of Falun, Sweden, where Canadians were wartime internees.

In the Swedish transmission of CBC International Service, one airman told how he had been saved from the Baltic by a Swedish fishing boat after ditching his Mosquito. Another sent thanks to a history professor who loaned him a pair of white running shoes to replace the flying boots he had lost after bailing out. All spoke warmly of Falun hospitality and asked after the boys with whom they had played hockey and football and the girls with whom they had cycled.

The broadcast was arranged by Gunnar Rugheimer and Sture Persson of International Service's Swedish Section as the result of a recent story in the Falun newspaper, Dala-

Demokraten, which said that many people in that city would like to resume acquaintance with the Canadians who had been interned there. These CBC officials then located six internees asking them to record their messages. To reach a radio studio, H.D. McPhail pushed 110 miles through snowdrifts from Kerrobert to Saskatoon. Another participant, H.R. Ginson of Hartland, N.B., was joined at the microphone by his wife, the former Karin Fagarlund of Falun. Each of yesterday's recorded messages in English was followed by a resume in Swedish.

**COAL PRODUCTION UP:** With substantial increases in Alberta and British Columbia, Canadian production of coal rose almost 31 per cent in January over the corresponding month last year. Imports, on the other hand, showed a sharp decline of 21 per cent in the same comparison.

According to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, output for January amounted to 1,827,500 tons as compared with 1,396,400 in the same month of 1948. Imports totalled 866,500 tons as against 1,099,700.

Mines in Alberta turned out 867,400 tons of coal during January compared with the January, 1948 figure of 508,200. Nova Scotia's production amounted to 570,000 tons compared with 569,500, New Brunswick 41,500 tons compared with 36,200, Saskatchewan 201,800 (224,400), and British Columbia and Yukon, 146,800 (58,000) tons.