

for union, should the people of Newfoundland desire to enter Confederation.

After prolonged debate the National Convention recommended to the United Kingdom Government, on Jan. 29, 1948, that two choices be placed before the people, the restoration of Responsible Government and continuation of Commission of Government. A motion to include Confederation on the ballot was defeated in the Convention by a vote of 29 to 16.

The United Kingdom Government, after due consideration, decided to add Confederation to the ballot, having concluded that "it would not be right that the people of Newfoundland should be deprived of an opportunity of considering the issue at the referendum". The official statement pointed to Canada's offer being based on long discussion with a delegation from the Convention, to the support for Confederation shown in the Convention, and to the fact that the issues had been sufficiently clarified to enable the people to decide whether Confederation would commend itself to them.

At the first poll of the National Referendum, held on June 3, 1948, after wide public discussion, 155,777 (more than 88 p.c.) of the 176,297 registered voters went to the polls. Responsible Government received 69,400 votes, Confederation 64,066 and continuation of Commission of Government 22,311 votes. As no form of Government had received an absolute majority, a second poll was required on the two forms receiving the most votes, in accordance with the conditions previously announced by the United Kingdom Government.

At the second poll on July 22, 1948, approximately 85 p.c. of the voters turned out. Some 78,323 voted for Confederation with Canada and 71,334 for Responsible Government. Eighteen of the 25 electoral districts as established in 1933 showed a clear majority for Confederation.

On July 30, 1948, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that the result of the referendum was "clear and beyond all

*Confederation headed the news in Newfoundland newspapers in July, 1948.*

