

That is what, in a very sketchy fashion, I am going to attempt this evening.

The first and most obvious change in the face of Canada, and I happen to think it is also the most important change in the past twenty years, was the actual increase in the geographical area of the country which was made at midnight on March 31, 1949.

That change was the union of Newfoundland with Canada.

The Union of Newfoundland with Canada marked the completion of the work of the Fathers of Confederation.

The province of Newfoundland is more than the island of Newfoundland.

It also includes the vast territory of Labrador on the North American mainland.

The union of 1949 increased our Canadian territory by four per cent.

As long ago as 1886, Sir John Macdonald, the then Prime Minister of Canada, said that Newfoundland "has the key to our front door".

There is no question that the completion of Confederation in 1949 gave Canadians a feeling that our country has at last reached its full dimensions.

The union also gave us a new conception of our place in world strategy, both in peace and in possible war.

We are only beginning to discover the extent of the resources of this tenth province of Canada, much of which was still unexplored in 1949.

But what has already been uncovered is helping to transform the Canadian economy by making Canada a major source of iron ore in the free world.

But for Canada as a nation, what was even more significant was the addition, at one stroke, of a third of a million new citizens.

These new Canadian citizens in Newfoundland were already experienced in the ways of the new world; they were not really strangers to Canada.

Moreover, Newfoundland has a higher birth-rate and, now, also, a lower death-rate than any other Canadian province.

For a country that needs people, there could be no greater asset than this large addition of splendid new citizens.

The population of Canada in mid 1935 was well below eleven millions; in mid 1955 it was estimated at more than fifteen and a half millions.

It is safe to say that our population has increased nearly forty-five per cent in the past twenty years.