

The signing of this important document is one of great historic significance. The provisions of the document as a constitutional instrument will probably be examined and construed by courts on many occasions; its financial provisions will probably form the basis for claims and counter-claims. Its great importance, however, lies in recording an agreement between representatives of two countries to unite into one great country with a common citizenship for its people who will in the strength of unity stand together and face the future with confidence. The occasion is one of particular significance because of the failure of efforts to bring about union on former occasions with the result that Newfoundland stood alone on the eastern seaboard of a great country which expanded and grew in size and importance. This occasion marks a necessary and important step towards the final realization of the vision of the Fathers of Confederation, who saw a great new nation standing astride the northern half of the continent. With approval by your Parliament and the Government of Newfoundland and confirmation by the Government of the United Kingdom, this vision will be fully realized on March 31st, next.

For a large number of the people of Newfoundland the union will mean changes. While many look forward with confidence to a great future in this union, many feel that the destinies of Newfoundland could best be worked out by the people of Newfoundland themselves standing as a separate entity in the world. As in many other agreements of this kind, much depends upon the desire of both sides to make the arrangement succeed. The people of Newfoundland will undoubtedly obtain many benefits from this Union; they will also make a great contribution to the further development of Canada.

We, representatives of Newfoundland, are proud of our participation in this great event. We assure you that Newfoundland and her people will play their part as citizens of Canada and we place great faith in the obvious desire of your Government and your people that our country and our people will find a prosperous and happy place in this great union.

1949 Mar 31, 1949.