

FOREWORD

To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the confederation of Newfoundland with Canada the Department of External Affairs has undertaken the production of two volumes of documents on Canada's relations with Newfoundland in the pre-confederation period. This volume, the first of the two, documents actual relations in the years 1935-1949; the second, which will show how confederation was brought about in the 1945-49 period, will be published shortly.

These steps are being taken as one means of honouring Newfoundland and its people in this year which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the union of Newfoundland and Canada. As the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliot Trudeau, said in the House of Commons on April 1st last:

With their rich traditions, their centuries-old distinctive culture, their strong, independent spirit and their many talents, Newfoundlanders have made a very significant contribution in virtually every sphere of Canadian endeavour. I am sure this will continue to be the case, for during the past twenty-five years Newfoundlanders have been loyal and dedicated Canadians. They have a deep commitment to national unity. Yet no group offers clearer proof that it is possible in Canada for people of varied and different backgrounds who have common objectives to work for the advancement of national purposes, while at the same time maintaining their individuality and their affection for their special and unique heritage. We all hope the Newfoundlanders will never lose these qualities and, knowing them as we do, there is scant likelihood that they will.

The union of Newfoundland with Canada was a major event in Canadian history. I commend this volume, and its companion volume when it appears, to students, scholars and others who wish to acquire a fuller understanding of that event and of the circumstances in which it occurred.

Allan G. MacEachern

Secretary of State
for External Affairs

Ottawa,
September 1974