

have endeavoured to appreciate the position and views of the Delegation from Newfoundland, to be responsive to requests for information, and generally to facilitate the negotiations. I hope we have succeeded. I know I am speaking for all the Canadians who have participated in our discussions when I express warm appreciation of the broad outlook and co-operative attitude of the Newfoundland delegation.

I feel that I shall be speaking for the Newfoundland delegation, as well as for my colleagues, when I express our thanks for the hard work and efficient service of the officials and the clerical staffs on both sides, who have been associated with these arduous and complicated negotiations.

No Simple Task

All of us in this room know it has not been a simple task to arrive at exact terms of union. At this moment, it may be appropriate to recall what had been accomplished before our labours began on October 6th. Time and study were required to determine whether there was a fair and equitable basis for the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation. A delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland spent four months here in Ottawa in 1947, exploring this question with a committee of the Canadian Government. Following that study, Mr. Mackenzie King communicated to the Governor of Newfoundland the general terms the Canadian Government would be prepared to recommend to Parliament as a basis for union. Then the people of Newfoundland were given, in a democratic manner, an opportunity to decide whether, on that basis, they wished Newfoundland to unite federally with Canada. When the people of Newfoundland, by a majority vote in a referendum on July 22, 1948, had expressed their desire to enter into Confederation, Mr. King announced that the government of Canada would be glad to receive authorized representatives of Newfoundland to work out the precise terms of an agreement for union. That agreement has now been concluded, and as Mr. King indicated, the next stage in Canada will be its submission to Parliament for approval. It will also require to be approved by the Government of Newfoundland and confirmed by an act of the British Parliament.

The agreement has required long and careful consideration. You for Newfoundland and we for Canada have had to do our respective bests to safeguard the interests of those whom we represent. Happily, our primary concern has not been for the narrow advantage of each, but to assure our common interests in one enlarged nation. We have, it is true, had certain difficulties. But, as D'Arcy McGee once said when talking about objections that had been raised to Confederation, "I have never . . . heard of any state being founded or enlarged or delivered from danger, except by surmounting difficulties."

Complex Problems

In many ways the problems we have surmounted have been more difficult and more complex than those faced by the Fathers of Confederation in 1867. Government then was a simpler business than government today, and the economies of the British North American colonies of that day were more alike than are the economies of Newfoundland and Canada today. In the years intervening since 1867, we have gone our separate ways; we have developed differently and we have built up quite different administrative systems. Marriage between adults of mature years requires greater adjustment and a broader tolerance of differences between the parties than does marriage between younger folk just starting to assume the responsibilities of life. So, too, with the union of mature countries. We may, I think, con-