



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**NEWFOUNDLAND ACCORD SIGNED:** In a simple ceremony in the Senate Chamber, on Saturday, December 11, representatives of Canada and Newfoundland signed the agreement under which Newfoundland will enter Confederation as the tenth Province.

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Claxton, signed on behalf of Canada. The Chairman of the Newfoundland Delegation, Hon. A. J. Walsh, K.C., and five of the additional six members of his Delegation, signed on behalf of Newfoundland. The seventh member of the Newfoundland Delegation, Mr. Chesley A. Crosbie, abstained from signing.

The former Prime Minister, Mr. King, attended the ceremonies, as did a number of other members of Parliament, and members of the diplomatic corps in Ottawa.

The terms of union are in general based upon the terms forwarded by the Government of Canada to Newfoundland last year and published under the heading, "Proposed Arrangements for the Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation," dated October 29, 1947. Certain modifications and elaborations were made as a result of the negotiations in Ottawa over the last two months.

The terms are to come into force on March 31, following approval by the Parliament of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and confirmation by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The new Province, including the Coast of Labrador, will have six Senators and seven members of the House of Commons; Newfoundland's

Legislature must meet not later than four months after the date of union; the franchise is to be extended to all female British subjects in Newfoundland at the age of 21; Newfoundland laws will remain in force subject to repeal or change by Parliament or the provincial Legislature.

Further provisions are as follows: Newfoundland legal machinery will continue in operation until changed by appropriate authority under the British North America Acts; arrangements will be made to finance the interim provincial Government until the Legislature can meet; patents and trademarks registered under Newfoundland law prior to union will be recognized under Canadian law and vice versa; and Newfoundland's fisheries laws will be continued in force for five years and thereafter until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides.

The terms specify the benefits which are to be made to Newfoundland veterans. In general, these correspond to the provisions outlined in 1947. The clause relating to merchant seamen is also similar to the scheme outlined in 1947. Newfoundland Government employees in services taken over by the Canadian Government will be offered employment without reduction in salary or loss of pension rights; Canada's welfare services, including family allowances are to be made available to the people of Newfoundland; the people of Newfoundland will begin paying federal income tax on a pay-as-you earn basis on July 1.