

better nation. The formal union is completed today. But the real union -- the union of hearts and minds -- took place in the recent terrible war in which Canadians and Newfoundlanders were so closely joined.

It is not only in war that we have come to know and appreciate the qualities of the people of Newfoundland. During the centuries since the original settlement of Newfoundland the people of your island have met the forces of nature, on sea and on land. In adversity and in prosperity they have developed qualities of heart and spirit for which they are renowned.

Some of those qualities are referred to by your native son E. J. Pratt, who has written:

This is their culture, this -- their master passion
Of giving shelter and of sharing bread,
Of answering rocket signals in the fashion
Of losing life to save it. In the spread
Of time -- the Gilbert-Grenfell-Bartlett span --
The headlines cannot dim their daily story,
Nor calls like London! Gander! Teheran!
Outplay the drama of the sled and dory.

The fact that Newfoundland has become a province of Canada will not cause you to lose your identity, of which you are all so justly proud.

A Canadian province is not a mere administrative unit of the central government. Each of our provinces has its own distinctive political existence and political traditions. Within its field of jurisdiction the provincial legislative is as sovereign as the parliament of Canada is within its field. The provincial legislature has jurisdiction over education; property and civil rights; charitable, local and municipal institutions. To the province also falls the primary responsibility for public health and social welfare.

In entrusting such jurisdiction to the province, the Fathers, in their wisdom, left to the province the primary responsibility for the protection of the family, the school, the church, the very foundations of our society.

Our constitution thus assures to each province the preservation of its ancient traditions, its own culture and all those distinctive characteristics which add variety and colour to our national life.

Newfoundland today enters confederation as a full and equal partner with the older provinces. It is my hope and belief that in the future the advantages of the union will be increasingly recognized by the great majority of the people of Newfoundland and of all Canada.

We are completing our union at a troubled time for all people who believe in freedom and democracy and who hope for peace. The free and peace-loving countries of the north Atlantic community are at the present moment taking steps, within the charter of the United Nations, to band themselves together for greater security against any would-be aggressor.

Newfoundland is in the very centre of the north Atlantic community. Canada as a whole occupies a large part of the north Atlantic area. The nations of that whole area will be more secure in the north Atlantic association. In the same way, Canada and Newfoundland will have greater security in being bound together in federal union. From today all