

and the acting Under Secretary of State for External Affairs were the Canadian signatories.

In all these proceedings the Canadian government acted constitutionally, observing faithfully all the fundamental principles of democracy. They lived up to the tradition of our democratic way of life. The terms of union are fair and equitable for both countries. It was satisfying to me to see that the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the leaders of the opposition groups in the other house were unanimous in approving the admission of Newfoundland into Canada.

I am convinced that the addition of this tenth province to our beloved land will be to the mutual advantage of our new fellow-Canadians and ourselves. As a Quebecer and a French-speaking Canadian, I say with true emotion that it is a great privilege to take part in this epoch-making debate which, as the honourable leader opposite has said, will long be referred to by those who come after us. They will say that the last stone of our great federal and interprovincial building was laid where the terms we are now discussing were finally agreed to. Thus, honourable senators, we continue and complete in a manner worthy of our illustrious predecessors, the task undertaken by Macdonald, Cartier and other Fathers of Confederation.

Without the enlightened and efficient co-operation of those statesmen who represented Quebec and Ontario, and whose names are always pronounced with great respect, confederation would never have been achieved. Putting aside all our differences of political opinion we are proud to associate with those names two other great names of the past, Tupper and Tilley, as well as the names of two great present-day representatives of our provinces of Ontario and Quebec, namely, Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent. Rising above political divergencies and the various and conflicting policies which sometimes separate our two great parties—our old parties, as they are called by some newer schools of thought—I am proud to record the achievements of the Conservative party as well as of my own party, the Liberal party. I am proud also to record the achievements of all our great leaders, men who have guided and are guiding opposite sides in this house and another place but who have always been anxious to contribute to the welfare of our beloved country, and to her development and expansion.

History will register in golden letters the date of the admission of Newfoundland as the tenth of our sister provinces. We are informed that there still is dissatisfaction among those in Newfoundland who were opposed to the

union. We also know that in the province of Quebec the agreement now before us has been denounced as imposing upon our taxpayers an excessive additional burden without their consent having been previously obtained. Also a claim was advanced on behalf of Quebec to a part of Labrador; and it has been stated in Quebec that Newfoundland would be a liability to Canada. There have been various other objections. But, honourable senators, I am sure that with time the people of Newfoundland and of Canada as a whole, and in particular those of Quebec, will forget all such complaints and alleged grievances. First of all, they will realize that for the security, not only of Canada but of all North America, the union of Newfoundland with Canada is essential to the efficiency and the practical working out of the North Atlantic Pact. It is not necessary for me to insist upon the strategic importance of the Old Colony; its adequate defence is absolutely vital to the protection of Canada as well as of the United States. The last war fully demonstrated the truth of that assertion. For all purposes of shipping as well as of aviation, in peace and in war, Newfoundland holds an international key position which cannot be over-estimated. It is time to repeat the ancient and familiar maxim: united we stand, divided we fall.

Critics of the proposed union seem to believe that we are taking in Newfoundland as it was in 1934. They systematically ignore and undervalue its present assets. First of all, Newfoundlanders are known all over the world for their unexcelled qualities of courage, industry and perseverance and their loyalty to God, their king and their country. I salute respectfully, with love and affection, the 330,000 people who will remain forever good and true sons of their autonomous province of Newfoundland, but who will become also excellent Canadians, our fellow countrymen. They will bring to us territory which, including Labrador, has an area of more than 150,000 square miles. The country's main resources at present are fish, paper products and minerals.

When we speak of Newfoundland we of course think immediately of codfish, because from the beginning of its four and a half centuries of recorded history the cod fishery has been the main industry of the island. About forty years ago I spent a couple of summers sailing on the banks of the Old Colony, fishing and visiting its coasts along the Straits of Belle Isle, and I shall always remember those happy days with delight and pleasant emotion. Then I was able to come personally into contact with the hardy fishermen and their families. I observed the tragic conditions under which they lived at