

review copy lying about and the next morning confessed she had stayed up until 4 a.m. reading it, or at any rate skimming through. She was discovering, of course, her history, and therefore herself.

During the Second World War, Canada discovered Newfoundland and individual Canadians discovered, to their astonishment, that they were hated by Newfoundlanders. Equally disconcerting to Canadians was the realization that Newfoundlanders, though co-members of what was then the British Empire, admired and liked Americans.

No better insight into the causes and nature of the collapse of relations between the two sister Dominions — sisters, that is, no matter how disparate their respective sizes — can be found than to quote two of the pieces of official correspondence contained in this volume.

In April 1943, an official of the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board visited St. John's and then reported his findings. All the banks in Newfoundland, he observed, were Canadian and, except for the Bank of Nova Scotia, the senior officials were all Canadians . . . : "The Canadians are no doubt instructed not to show distaste at their appointments publicly, but in most cases, from the manager down, they feel they are bearing the white man's burden and are living in hopes of a transfer. Newfoundland being what it is, such an attitude is unavoidable; nevertheless it has a rather unfortunate effect."

The other witness for the prosecution is a report by an official of Canada's War-time Information Board to his general manager, A. Davidson Dunton. Written in April 1944, the report deals with the difficult issue of Newfoundland resentment against French-Canadian Home Defence soldiers. The main cause of resentment, wrote the official, "comes from the relative conditions of pay and allowances of Canadian and Newfoundland troops". Equally troubling: "With regard to the behaviour of the Canadian sailors and soldiers, the fact that almost every restaurant on Water Street has had its plateglass front window smashed and now has it boarded up is perhaps sufficient comment. . . . American troops do relatively little downtown roistering."

A core problem, described in an excellent introduction by R. A. MacKay, was that Newfoundland was so easy to overlook. At the first meeting of the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defence, set up after the August 1940 Ogdensburg meeting between Mackenzie King and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the two countries grandly divided up North American de-

fence, placing Newfoundland in Canada's defence sphere.

Newfoundland was then under Commission of Government, a curious status that bedevilled all diplomatic discussions. Britain acted as both judge and jury for Newfoundland, yet, as these papers make clear, was more sensitive to local opinion than Newfoundlanders realized. Within a month of the Ogdensburg meeting, the British-appointed Governor of Newfoundland had twice protested to Ottawa at decisions taken without Newfoundland representatives being consulted. Finally, Sir Edward Emmerson, one of the native Newfoundland Commissioners (who emerges here as a major personality), was allowed to attend Board meetings whenever Newfoundland affairs were discussed.

Goose Bay base

The Canadian air-base at Goose Bay, Labrador, provides a perfect test of the difficulties — near impossibilities at times — of diplomatic dealings between the two countries. Discussions began in September 1941, and within a month the Governor of Newfoundland, in a note to the Dominions Secretary in London, was suggesting — with an eye on possible postwar commercial use — that Newfoundland should not grant the 99-year lease Canada demanded.

Construction went ahead anyway. In September 1942, the Minister of Munitions and Supply, C. D. Howe, wrote briskly: "I can hardly believe Newfoundland would ever challenge possession of a base in Labrador built by Canada with Canadian money".

Newfoundland, assisted by Britain (in one memorandum there is a delightful suggestion that "the Beaver" was behind the whole thing) did all it could to challenge possession. In November 1942, the

Britain sensitive to local opinion in Newfoundland

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