

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND WITH CANADA

An account of the ceremonies held on April 1, 1949, at St. John's and Ottawa, to celebrate the Union; including the texts of speeches delivered by His Excellency the Governor General; the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent; the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson; the newly appointed Secretary of State, Mr. Bradley; and the new Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland, Sir Albert Walsh.

(Reprinted from Hansard of April 1, 1949)

Broadcast from St. John's Newfoundland:

Commentator: I am speaking to you now from Government House, in St. John's, the official residence of all governors of Newfoundland since about 1832 when responsible government was first introduced into the island. In this building all our governors and administrators of government since that time have taken their oaths of allegiance and office, and it is eminently fitting that here should be sworn in also the first Lieutenant Governor of this new province of Canada.

Present in these rooms are His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor Designate, the Honourable Albert Walsh, K.C.; His Lordship, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Edward Emerson, who will administer the oaths. Also present are the judges of the Supreme Court; the heads of the various churches; representatives of Canada, the United States, France, Portugal; the mayor of St. John's, permanent heads of the local government; the Prime Minister Designate and his colleagues; representative citizens and their wives, and members of the local and foreign press, numbering in all about one hundred.

The ceremony today will be a brief but nonetheless impressive one. It will open with the singing of the Ode to Newfoundland by a choir under the direction of Mr. Robert McLeod. Following this you will hear the reading of the commission of the Lieutenant Governor. Then follows the highlight of this afternoon's ceremony, when the Chief Justice, Sir Edward Emerson, will administer the oaths of allegiance and office to the first Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Sir Albert Walsh, K.C. Following this, Honourable Colin Gibson, a member of the Canadian government, will present to His Honour token Canadian citizenship papers, and, in accepting on behalf of the people of Newfoundland, Sir Albert will reply. This will conclude the ceremony at St. John's. The proceedings at Ottawa will follow immediately.

Now, all is in readiness for the ceremony here at Government House.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Ode to Newfoundland.

(Here followed the singing by the choir of two verses of the Ode to Newfoundland.)

Reading of commission and swearing in ceremony of new lieutenant governor:

Sir Edward Emerson: George the Sixth, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British dominions beyond the seas, King, Defender of the Faith.

To the Honourable Sir Albert Joseph Walsh, of the city of St. John's in the province of Newfoundland, Knight Bachelor, one of our counsel learned in the law.

Greeting:

Know you that we, reposing special trust and confidence in the prudence, courage, loyalty, integrity and ability of you the said Albert Joseph Walsh, have, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, thought fit to constitute and appoint and we do hereby constitute and appoint you the said Albert Joseph Walsh to be the Lieutenant Governor in and over the province of Newfoundland, one of the provinces of Canada, during the will and pleasure of our Governor General of Canada.

And we do hereby authorize and empower and command you and the said Albert Joseph Walsh in due manner to do and execute all things that shall belong to your said command and the trust we have reposed in you, according to the several powers, provisions and directions granted or appointed you by virtue of the act of parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the thirtieth year of Her late Majesty's reign, called and known as the British North America Act, 1867, and of all other statutes in that behalf and of this our present commission according to such instructions as are herewith given to you and hereunto annexed or which may from time to time be given to you in respect of the said province of Newfoundland under the sign manual of our Governor General of Canada or by order of our Privy Council for Canada and according to such laws as are or may be in force within the said province of Newfoundland.

And we do hereby further appoint that so soon as you shall have taken the prescribed oaths and entered upon the duties of your office, this our Commission shall come into force and take effect.

In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent and the great seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.  
Witness:

Our right trusty and well-beloved cousin, Harold Rupert Leofric George, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Military Cross, Field Marshal in our army, Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada.

At our Government House, in our city of Ottawa, this first day of April, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine, and in the thirteenth year of our reign.

By command,

Secretary of State of Canada.

Oaths of the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland

Oath of allegiance

I, Albert Joseph Walsh, do swear that I will be faithful and true and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Sixth, his heirs and successors according to law.

So help me God.

Oaths of office

You shall well and truly execute the office and trust of Lieutenant Governor of the province of Newfoundland and duly and impartially administer justice therein.

So help you God.

You shall well and truly execute the office and trust of Keeper of the great seal of His Majesty's province of Newfoundland according to the best of your knowledge and ability.

So help you God.

Commentator: The oath has now been administered, and the Honourable Colin Gibson, a member of the government of Canada, will speak.

On presentation of token certificate of citizenship to Sir Albert Walsh, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland:

Hon. Colin Gibson (Minister of Mines and Resources):

Your Honour, it is a great privilege for me, as a representative of the Prime Minister and the people of Canada, to be here today in St. John's to take part in this confederation ceremony.

We welcome the people of Newfoundland who today become equal partners with us in the development of the northern part of the American continent.

In recognition of your entry into our confederation I have much pleasure in presenting to you, sir, this certificate of Canadian citizenship, which has been specially prepared to mark this occasion. As you will see, it certifies that every Newfoundland British subject coming within the relevant provisions of the Canadian Citizenship Act adds to his status as a British subject that of being a Canadian citizen, and that he or she is entitled to all rights, powers and privileges, and subject to all obligations, duties and liabilities to which a natural-born Canadian citizen is entitled or subject.

I can assure you, sir, that all the people of Canada join with me in extending to the people of Newfoundland a welcome into our Canadian family.

Sir Albert Walsh (Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland): Hon. Mr. Gibson, on behalf of the people of Newfoundland I am happy to welcome you on the occasion of your visit to Newfoundland to take part in this ceremony as the representative of the Prime Minister and the people of Canada.

The certificate of citizenship which you have presented to the people of Newfoundland, through me, shows that all of us now have a new status, that of Canadian citizens, which entitles us to rank equally with all other Canadian citizens throughout all Canada. This new citizenship is in addition to the status which we have enjoyed in common, the status of British subjects. I am glad to accept this certificate, and can assure you that the people of Newfoundland who will enjoy the privileges of this new citizenship will faithfully discharge their duties as citizens.

I am sure that all the people of Newfoundland wish me to express through you to the people of Canada our appreciation of the welcome which you have extended on their behalf on this historic occasion, and to extend best wishes to a people with whom we have for many years been so closely associated.

Commentator: The ceremony of the swearing in of the first Lieutenant Governor of the province of Newfoundland and the presentation of token Canadian citizenship papers to His Honour is now concluded.

This is CBN, St. John's, Newfoundland, transferring you to parliament hill in Ottawa.

Broadcast from Ottawa:

(Carillon)

Commentator: Those are the bells of the carillon in the Peace Tower of the Houses of Parliament here on parliament hill in Ottawa. Robert Donnell, Canada's official carillonneur, is playing a Newfoundland folk song called "Squid Jiggin' Ground".

I am standing near a platform which has been erected on the steps of the Peace Tower. Our purpose, of course, is to continue the broadcast of the ceremony which will unite Newfoundland, the last and oldest of the British North American colonies with Canada, thereby making it Canada's tenth province.

His Excellency the Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Governor General of Canada, and the official party, are expected in a few minutes, and will take their places on the platform.

Among the officials will be the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, and Mr. F. Gordon Bradley, of Newfoundland, who we understand has been sworn in as a minister of the Crown during the past half hour. No doubt further mention will be made of this appointment by the Prime Minister.

The Governor General and the official party are arriving at the platform.

(Royal Salute; six bars National Anthem)

The composite guard of honour, composed of members of the Army and Air Force, has just accorded His Excellency the Governor General a royal salute.

Photographers from the different newspapers and magazines are now taking pictures of the members of the platform party. Among the distinguished people on the platform, on the Governor General's right is the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, and the Right Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff.

It is a beautiful day for an outdoor ceremony. The wind is cool and the sun is shining brightly. Hundreds of citizens of Ottawa and the surrounding district are taking advantage of the seasonal temperatures and have turned out to witness this history-making event. Civil servants have been allowed to take their lunch hour a little earlier today in order to be present, and parliament hill is crowded with people.

Just behind the composite guard of honour is the band of the Governor General's Foot Guards, which you will hear later on during the ceremony.

The Prime Minister is preparing to make his address of welcome to the people of Newfoundland.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to direct my first words today to the people of the new Canadian province of Newfoundland. I know I am speaking for the people of the other nine provinces when I say that we welcome you warmly as fellow Canadians.

In greeting you as fellow citizens we do not feel that you in Newfoundland have ever been strangers. In peace we have been happy to live and work beside you. In two wars we have been glad you were in our company and we in yours. We have the same traditions and the same way of life. We are both proud of our association in the British commonwealth of nations. We have shared, and continue to share, a common loyalty to His Majesty the King.

At this time, when we are taking a major step in the life of Newfoundland and of all Canada, the people of the nine older provinces and those of Newfoundland are equally aware that one circumstance that has contributed to union is our common loyalty to His Majesty the King. That common loyalty will continue to be one of the most important forces in the life of our united nation. With those thoughts in mind, I asked His Excellency the Governor General to convey a message this morning -- the first full day of the new union -- to His Majesty King George VI. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the entry of Newfoundland into confederation as a province of Canada I send to Your Majesty, on behalf of the government and people of Canada, the expression of our devoted loyalty, together with our sincere good wishes to you and Her Majesty the Queen. The people of Canada, those of Newfoundland and those of the other provinces of Canada, now one nation under the Crown, are happy to learn of Your Majesty's improvement in health, and join in wishing you a speedy recovery.

The union we celebrate today was not concluded without the most careful consideration by representatives of both Canada and Newfoundland.

In 1947, when the delegation from your national convention came to Ottawa to see if a satisfactory basis could be found for the political union, we were pleased. We had no hesitation in making it clear that we would welcome union. But we recognized that the decision was one for you to make yourselves. We were happy when you, the people of Newfoundland, decided by a free vote that you favoured union. And we are happy today to have the union completed.

In welcoming you as partners in the Canadian nation, we of the rest of Canada feel that you are joining a good country, a country of which you will come to be as proud as we are. Canada is a country with a distinctive character and distinctive qualities. Our nation in its origin was a union of two great races that have joined their talents without merging their identities. The union includes peoples of many other national origins. Our country covers a vast area between two oceans, with great differences of soil and climate and industry. But from end to end of Canada there is an ever-deepening sense of community of interest and of purpose. We have a common pride in being Canadians. We are proud of Canada's past and of the record of our men and women in peace and in war. We are confident of our country's future. We feel that our nation can hold its head high among the nations of the world.

With the pleasure we have in welcoming you of Newfoundland as Canadians there is mingled a feeling that you could have joined no

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

Canadians, old and new, will work as one to preserve peace and to win security. And in a world where free people can work in security and peace, the opportunities for the enlarged Canada, with its ten provinces, are immense.

Among our people there are some who still do not have that standard of life we think all Canadians should have. There are some who still do not enjoy an adequate degree of social security. We shall not cease to work for a larger measure of prosperity and security for all our people in all parts of Canada.

But while there is yet room for improvement, there is no country in the world where that improvement is more possible, or, indeed, more certain. The wealth of Canada is the wealth of half a continent. The talents and the energies of our people are those of free men who work together for the benefit of all. Our wealth, our talents, our energy, and our co-operation constitute the promise of our country.

The people of Newfoundland, who have today become citizens of Canada, will share with the people of the rest of Canada, in the work and in the wealth of our nation. Together we shall strive, under God's guidance and with confidence in our future, to build a greater and a better land.

In conclusion I welcome as a colleague in the government of Canada the Honourable Gordon Bradley, of Newfoundland, who this morning was sworn to the Privy Council and becomes Secretary of State of Canada.

(The Prime Minister then spoke in French. A translation follows): Let the Newfoundlanders of yesterday, Canadians of today, be formally assured, that when I welcome them in English, I express the feelings of their new compatriots whose maternal tongue is French, as much as of those whose maternal tongue is English.

They now belong to a nation whose main elements both hold dear the traditions, culture and language of their ancestors, and that should stand as a guarantee that by joining a new nation, they will lose nothing of their own ancestral heritage, whose assets on the contrary, will be added to the commonwealth, for the common benefit of all Canadians.

(End of translation)

Mr. Bradley will now address his fellow Canadians in all the ten provinces.

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): This is a day which will live long in North American history. It is a day of fulfilment -- fulfilment of a vision of great men who planned the nation of Canada more than eighty years ago; and as we stand here on this day of destiny our thoughts fly back through the years to those far-seeing men of the past -- Macdonald, Brown, and Cartier in Canada, and Carter and Shea in Newfoundland -- whose vision was broader and deeper than their times, and whose conception of a united British North America has just become a reality. In fancy we can see them now, bending over this scene in silent and profound approval.

That they were right is not now open to question. The history of the Canada they began in 1867 leaves no room for doubt upon that point, and the logic of these eighty years indicates that a still greater and better Canada for us all lies in the future.

For me this day transforms a dream of long ago into an accomplished fact. For many years I have felt that our similar

independence was unsound; that the close proximity of my native island to the mainland constituted a clear call for union with Canada; that the allegiance to one Crown, which we have always shared with Canada, beckoned us westward; that the identity of our principles and traditions pointed in the same direction.

All these considerations led irrevocably to but one conclusion -- that Macdonald, Brown and Cartier, and Carter and Shea, were right; and I am happy that this day has come in my time.

I suppose that this union will make hardly any appreciable impression upon the lives of the citizens of Canada of yesterday, but to the people of the new province the changes will be deep and abiding.

In some matters they will lose that exclusiveness of control of their own destinies which they have heretofore enjoyed, and in return they acquire a share in the councils of a great nation -- the new Canada -- of which they have become a part; they must accustom themselves to a new system of government -- the federal system -- which links them with all Canadians and yet assures them of a continuance of that identity of which they have always been so proud. They will experience new channelings of trade, new standards of social legislation, new methods of taxation, and a new measure of responsibility as citizens of the New Canada.

Confederation in the days of Macdonald was perhaps comparatively simple, but in the complexities and uncertainties of our modern world it is inevitable that in the process of adjustment to their changed status there will be stresses and strains. We shall have to meet these problems as they arise within the next few months, and perhaps the next few years; and yet out of the experience of the past we may confidently expect that they will not prove as difficult in the future.

Indeed, that process of adjustment has already begun, and we Newfoundland Canadians have been deeply impressed by the speedy recognition of our problems by those whom I may term the older Canadians, and their sincere desire to co-operate with us in effecting the transition as smoothly and with as little dislocation as possible.

Thus we begin life as one people in an atmosphere of unity. We are all Canadians now. Now, as never before, can it be said of this land that her bounds extend from sea to sea. From the eastern shores of the new Province of Newfoundland to the coast of British Columbia let us go forward together with faith in the principles and traditions which we hold in common. Thus shall we grow in strength and prosperity. Thus will the prophetic vision of that great Canadian, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when he said that the twentieth century belonged to Canada, be acknowledged by the whole world.

#### Inscribing the Arms of Newfoundland on the Peace Tower

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The dominating feature of the capital of Canada is the tower before which we now are standing. It has become known, through visit or photograph or painting, to almost every Canadian. To Canadians it is a symbol of our confederation, and of its spirit and character.

The tower arose out of the ashes of the old parliament building which was destroyed by fire in 1916. When it was built it was dedicated to peace, and on the arch of its base were inscribed the coats of arms of the nine provinces of Canada. The architects and stone-cutters charged with the work, however, carved ten shields instead of nine. One was left blank for the day, which the Fathers of Confederation had foreseen, when Newfoundland would join Canada. That day has come.



It is most gratifying to me as Prime Minister of Canada to cut the first line on the shield that will bear the arms of the ancient colony of Newfoundland, now the tenth province of Canada.

I do so, for my own part and on behalf of my predecessor, Mr. Mackenzie King, who as Prime Minister had a large and decisive part in bringing about the union.

I feel confident that the inscription in hard and enduring stone will not be more lasting than the union of which it is the symbol.

(These remarks repeated by Mr. St. Laurent in French.)

Address of His Excellency the Governor General

It is my privilege today in speaking to the people of Newfoundland, and to those who are now their fellow citizens in the rest of Canada, to convey a message from His Majesty the King. The message is as follows:

Please convey to the government and people of Canada on behalf of the Queen and myself our appreciation of the message of loyalty and good wishes which you sent me. On this historic occasion I am glad to send my good wishes to the people of the greater Canada -- to those of the old provinces and to those of the new province of Newfoundland -- who will now go forward together to the high destiny that awaits them. Today marks the fulfilment of the union into one great nation of all peoples of the British commonwealth in the northern part of North America. May the union that is now complete continue, under God's guidance, to grow in strength, prosperity, happiness, and may it bring new benefits to its people from sea to sea.

As representative of His Majesty, and as Governor General of Canada, it is a special pleasure for me to be able to convey that message on so historic an occasion.

The ceremony we have witnessed, the beginning of the carving of the arms of Newfoundland on the tenth shield in the arch of the Peace Tower, is a perfect symbol of the event we celebrate today. When union of the British colonies in North America was discussed at Quebec in 1864, Newfoundland was represented. At that time it was expected that Newfoundland would form a part of the proposed union. When the confederation that is now Canada was established, and Newfoundland was not included, the union was felt to be incomplete. It has remained incompleated until today.

When the arch in the Peace Tower was constructed, the sense of proportion of the architect confirmed the judgment of the fathers who had planned confederation. With only nine shields, no balance could be achieved that would satisfy the requirements of beauty and symmetry. And so the arch, like the union, was unfinished until the people of Newfoundland decided to join in the union which their representatives originally helped to plan. The people of Newfoundland have now so decided. The arch and the union will now be complete.

While I have not yet had occasion to visit Newfoundland, the qualities of its people are by no means unknown to me. The reputation established by the Royal Newfoundland regiment in the war of 1914-18 will always be a source of pride to the island whose sons that regiment made famous. In the last war I had under my own command in Italy the 166th (Newfoundland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery,

which carried on so well the reputation established by the sons of Newfoundland in the first world war. It was, perhaps, an augury of the union being completed today, that the 166th regiment was in support of the first Canadian division at Ortona in Italy.

As Governor General of Canada it is a pleasure for me to be able to welcome the people of Newfoundland into the country in which it is my privilege to represent His Majesty the King. I trust it will soon be my pleasure to visit the people of the new province in their own island and to greet again some of the gallant men who served under my command in Italy. To them, and to all the people of Newfoundland, I send today a word of greeting and of welcome as citizens of Canada.

God Save the King

Ode to Newfoundland

O Canada

Royal Salute

Commentator: The Governor General and the official party are now preparing to leave the platform which has been erected on the steps of the Peace Tower here at the houses of parliament on parliament hill in Ottawa. The Governor General and the Prime Minister have left the platform and Mr. King is speaking with the new Secretary of State, the Honourable Mr. Bradley.

That concludes the official ceremony from parliament hill in Ottawa, linking Newfoundland with Canada as its tenth province.

Before returning you to our studios and our regular broadcasting schedule, we shall hear from Robert Donnell, Canada's official carillonneur, who will play "This Canada of Ours", his own composition, especially written for the citizenship ceremonies held in January of 1947.

Carillon

The composite guard of honour, made up of members of the army and air force, commanded by Major A. E. Wood, is now preparing to leave. (Incidentally this is also a great day for the air force, since today marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Doubtless there are many Newfoundland boys in the guard of honour.)

Photographers are now taking picture of the shield which was inscribed by the Prime Minister. During the ceremony the Prime Minister carved the first stone from the shield which will bear the coat of arms of the province of Newfoundland, one of the first to appear in the new world. The present coat of arms of Canada dates only from November, 1921, although an earlier Dominion of Canada coat of arms came into use following a royal warrant dated May 26, 1868, which coat of arms was composed merely of the four original provinces' coats of arms assigned at the time and by the same warrant.

S/C