

*Newfoundland*

a debate of which Canada's House of Commons may well be proud, a debate in every way worthy of the purpose that it was intended to serve, the high and noble purpose of bringing confederation to its full stature.

May I congratulate hon. members, not only collectively but individually, on having come into the right of being included among members of that distinguished company which is known as the makers of Canada. Every one in this house who assisted in bringing about this union has earned some title to that distinction.

It was all of a century and a quarter ago that one and more of the leading public men in this country began to advocate what was then referred to as a union of all the British-American colonies. It is that union which has been all but brought about at this time. Not only has that result been achieved, but today we have all but succeeded in bringing about what we all I think have had much at heart, namely, the rounding out, in its true proportions, of the Canada we had all hoped to live to see.

I should like particularly this afternoon to speak as a Canadian, as a representative of the people of Canada in this House of Commons. I hope we all remember that we are here not merely as representatives of individual constituencies, but as representatives of the people of Canada as a whole. In speaking as one of such, I should like above all to say how warmly and sincerely all Canada, as at present constituted, will welcome the entrance into confederation of the island province of Newfoundland and how delighted we are at the welcome which we know awaits Newfoundland when, as the tenth province of Canada, she is greeted by her nine sister provinces.

It must be a source of deepest satisfaction to the people of Newfoundland who followed the debate on the terms of union, as it is to the people of Canada, to realize that with respect to each of the essential successive steps in this historic transaction, there has been, with the exception of a single dissenting voice, unanimous approval by the members of Canada's House of Commons. The one dissenting voice has only helped to emphasize the completeness of our unanimity. Nothing could more eloquently express the warmth of the welcome which this House of Commons extends to the people of Newfoundland on becoming a part of Canada. Nothing could more eloquently have expressed the feeling of the people of Canada, as disclosed by their representatives here, than this unanimity. When Newfoundland comes into confederation it will be a day of nation-wide rejoicing,

rejoicing over the northern half of an entire continent from sea to sea, rejoicing from the break of dawn on the easternmost shores of the Atlantic, to the last glow of the setting sun on the westernmost shores of the Pacific.

I have desired to say only these few words, Mr. Speaker. I have felt that in the minds of some, the discussion of the last day of two on a matter of procedure may have served to dim the brightness of the achievement itself, the great objective which was reached so splendidly in the course of the debate on the agreement.

There can be no doubt that the union of Newfoundland with Canada will be to the mutual advantage of the peoples of both countries. It will, however, mean more than mere mutual advantage. The talent, the enterprise, the resources which each will contribute to the other will help to strengthen both. What is more, at a time such as the present, it will help to give each of us a greater confidence as we face the uncertainties of the future.

There will undoubtedly be difficulties to be overcome; there will be obstacles to be surmounted; there will be rough places to be made smooth once the union has taken place. Readjustments are always difficult but these are domestic matters which will be as successfully met as similar problems in the past have been met. What, I believe, is most important of all, is the fact that this union, when it comes into being, will be of great mutual advantage not only to Newfoundland and to Canada, but to all countries which, directly or indirectly, are concerned with the maintenance of peace. It will mean more effective co-operation between free nations at this time of great uncertainty in world movements and affairs. It means much to have the most effective co-operation between all of those nations that cherish kindred ideas and ideals and which are anxious to protect their freedom.

Union will be of advantage not only to the provinces which have combined to make a larger Canada, advantages in the way of strength and security. It will be of advantage in particular to other parts of the British commonwealth of nations and to the United States of America in their common efforts at the maintenance of peace. The more that can be brought about in these days by way of effective co-operation between nations which seek to maintain the peace, the better it is going to be for mankind.

It is true that sometimes it takes the small things of the world to confound the strong. It may well be that out of this union of two democracies on the North American continent, this union of forces in no way comparable to some of the great world forces, there may