

## Newfoundland

Under the terms of the Statute of Westminster the action of the parliament of the United Kingdom cannot be effective in respect to Canada without joint addresses by our houses of parliament, because section 4 of the Statute of Westminster expressly provides:

No act of parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this act shall extend or be deemed to extend to a dominion as part of the law of that dominion unless it is expressly declared in that act that that dominion has requested and consented to the enactment thereof.

Of course no parliament sitting at Westminster would make a declaration of that kind in the preamble of a statute unless it had factual justification. The purpose of these joint addresses is to give the parliament of the United Kingdom factual justification for asserting in the preamble to the act to confirm this union that it is done at the request and with the consent of Canada.

This address will go to His Majesty as an expression, through their representatives in parliament, of the will of the people of Canada that union is desired and should take place. The terms of the address are self-explanatory. The house has already sanctioned the principle that there should be such an address, because it has approved the terms of union, the fiftieth of which is that they shall come into effect only if royal assent is given by His Majesty, within the time specified, to an act passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom. Therefore the requirement of an act of the parliament of the United Kingdom has been approved by the house, and the terms of the Statute of Westminster make it necessary, to achieve that end, that there should be the address which is now before the house.

I think it is proper to say that the government, the members of the house, and indeed the Canadian people, are all gratified to find that the matter of the union of Newfoundland with Canada has been dealt with so thoroughly, on such a high level, and with the unanimity witnessed in our proceedings during the course of the last week. It must be a source of satisfaction to those who will soon be our new fellow citizens in this nation that it was the common view of all parties in this house, representing all sections of the Canadian people, that it would be desirable to have the people of Newfoundland become associated with us. Of course the Canadian people have never really thought of Newfoundland as another country, and the fact that they are to become associated with us is, for all older Canadians, a source of particular satisfaction. We have in French a saying which goes like this: *Dis-moi qui tu hantes, et je te dirai qui tu es*. I was accustomed to thinking that the English

equivalent was: Birds of a feather flock together, but it is really more than that. If I might venture to translate the French saying it would go something like this: Tell me with whom you are associated, and that will tell me what you are. We of Canada are happy that those who know the people of Newfoundland will be judging us by their knowledge of the sturdy qualities of those splendid people. I hope that the people of Newfoundland will be equally satisfied to be judged by what their new Canadian fellow citizens have been able to achieve during the eighty years which have elapsed since the original confederation.

As I said on a previous occasion in this house, there were many reasons for the close association between the people of Newfoundland and those of our own country—common origin, common adherence to the true principles of democratic liberty, common respect for the dignity of the individual, common abhorrence of any totalitarian or autocratic form of government. These links, derived from our common origin, from common development of our respective social orders, were greatly strengthened by the close association between the young men and young women of our respective peoples during the two great wars, and particularly during the last war. Many of our sons and daughters served with the young men and young women of Newfoundland, some of them in Newfoundland itself, others on the high seas with units of the Royal Canadian Navy based in Newfoundland. If I may be permitted to mention something quite personal, I feel particularly close to the people of Newfoundland by reason of the fact that, during the many months of my son's service in convoy duty on the Atlantic, the units of the Royal Canadian Navy with which he was serving were based in Newfoundland. What was my own experience during those days was the experience of thousands of Canadians. It created a relationship which makes the prospect of common citizenship with those splendid people one that is very pleasant to envisage.

I shall not attempt to summarize the great history of the sturdy people of Newfoundland, wresting their sustenance from the sea, as most of our people, in the early days, had to wrest their sustenance from the forests and the fields. Although there was a difference in vocation, the difference seems only to have created a close relationship between our two peoples. There is a great poet, E. J. Pratt, whom we claim as Canadian but whom Newfoundlanders claim to be a poet of Newfoundland; hereafter, though being a Canadian poet, he will at the same time be a poet of Newfoundland. We are familiar, as they