

*Newfoundland*

I took that opportunity to pay what I considered, as I am sure did all those who had participated in the long negotiations, was a well deserved tribute to the former Prime Minister who had had the responsibility for initiating the proceedings. I venture to take the time of the house to read into the record of *Hansard* what I said then:

I am sure the Newfoundland delegation will be as pleased as his former colleagues that Mr. Mackenzie King is present on this historic occasion. Mr. King had the main responsibility on the Canadian side for the beginning of the negotiations which we have now completed. We have reached an agreement for the entry of Newfoundland as a province of Canada. The agreement is now to be signed on behalf of Newfoundland by the members of the delegation and on behalf of Canada by the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs and by myself as Prime Minister.

There was a rather agreeable incident to which I called attention at that time in the following words:

I should like to ask those who are to sign the agreement between Canada and Newfoundland if they would use the inkstand which has been placed on the table for the purpose. Perhaps I might explain why this request is being made. The inkstand was left to the Canadian nation by the late Major R. A. C. Kane, V.D., who inherited it from his grandfather, Sir Etienne Pascal Tache. The inkstand was used at the famous Quebec conference in 1864 by the original fathers of confederation, and was subsequently presented to Tache, who presided over that conference. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that it should be used at the signing of the agreement to complete confederation.

I also mentioned the following:

It is also of interest that this inkstand was lent to Mr. Mackenzie King at the time of the Quebec conference of 1943 with the late President Roosevelt and Mr. Winston Churchill, and that it was also used on that occasion.

It may be of interest to hon. members to know that the inkstand will be placed in the library of parliament, which is visited by thousands of Canadians and of visitors from other lands each year, and where it is more apt to attract attention than if it were deposited in the museum, or in the archives or in some other of those places where we have so many interesting things which so few see.

There are still certain stages required to complete this matter of the entry of Newfoundland into confederation as a tenth province. The target date has been set as March 31, and the agreement requires that to come into effect it must first of all receive the approval of the Canadian parliament and of the Newfoundland government, and must also be confirmed by action of the parliament of the United Kingdom.

As hon. members know, in order that there may be passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom any law affecting Canada, it must be stated in the preamble that it is

done with the acquiescence and at the request of the houses of the Canadian parliament. That is one of the express provisions of the Statute of Westminster. In order to finish the work that is being done to bring about this completion of the original scheme of confederation, it will be necessary that there be passed by the parliament of Canada a statute ratifying the terms of the agreement and that they be also ratified by the government of Newfoundland, and that they be confirmed by a statute of the United Kingdom. All this must be done before March 31 because the terms of agreement are conditional. The words used in section 50 are as follows:

These terms are agreed to subject to their being approved by the parliament of Canada and the government of Newfoundland; shall take effect notwithstanding the Newfoundland Act, 1933, or any instrument issued pursuant thereto; and shall come into force immediately before the expiration of the thirty-first day of March, 1949, if His Majesty has theretofore given his assent to an act of the parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and northern Ireland confirming the same.

That is the condition upon which these terms can come into force, and if the condition were not fulfilled these terms could not come into force.

The passage of an act of the parliament of the United Kingdom will require joint addresses of this house, and of the other place, to His Majesty, asking him to submit to the parliament of the United Kingdom the appropriate legislation. I would imagine that this house will wish to consider very carefully, and perhaps debate at some length, the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada. However, if this parliament comes to the conclusion that these terms should be approved by a statute of the Canadian parliament, the adoption of the addresses to His Majesty the King will become a mere formality, because the matter is already covered by the terms of union, which by that time will have received the sanction of the parliament of Canada by a Canadian statute. Therefore I would hope that there would not need to be much debate upon the joint address. After the parliament of Canada has come to the conclusion, as I hope it will, that these terms of union should be accepted, there will also be required—but it need not, in my view, give us very much concern at the present time—to be passed before March 31 a bill making changes in language in the general Canadian statutes which will be appropriate and which will after the union be designed to apply to Newfoundland.

The terms of the union provide that the legislation of Newfoundland will remain in effect until it is repealed or modified by the appropriate body having jurisdiction under the division of powers provided for in the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]