

explorations and conversations between the parties, for the conference of 1895 occupied a mere 12 days. I believe I can say that if the present discussions come to nothing in the end by way of effecting federal union between us, it will not arise from any repetition of the inadequate explorations of '95 or from the undemocratic franchise of '69. We of this delegation believe it to be our plain duty to Newfoundland to make as thorough an investigation of this whole question as your co-operation and forbearance will permit.

I am sorry Mr. Bradley is not here today; I thought he would be by now, but I think it is quite in order that, as we draw near to the end of this discussion on this great issue which has shaken this country and its people to their depths on two occasions in our history, as referred to by Mr. Bradley, that we should do well to have our minds refreshed just a little on the two crises in question — the election of '69, and the negotiations of 1895.

Before the Christmas recess, Mr. Hollett, in a masterly way I thought, summed up the history of the Canadian confederation from its beginning with the Quebec resolutions of 1864 down to the failure of the Dominion-provincial conference a few years ago, which was held as an outcome of a famous royal commission. When the British North America Act providing for the confederation of the British North American colonies was drawn up, there was a clause in it, and it is still in it, that allowed for Newfoundland's entry into the union. Newfoundland representatives attended the Québec conference of 1864, when the framework of the union was set up. Mr., afterwards Sir Frederic Carter and Sir Ambrose Shea, were members of a government which was favourably inclined to the entry of Newfoundland into confederation. Out of this Quebec conference terms were drawn up as a fair and equitable basis under which Newfoundland and the other colonies might confederate. Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia did confederate in 1867. Newfoundland was next to consider the scheme, which was submitted to the electorate in November of 1869, and turned down. Manitoba, with a population of a thousand whites and many thousands of half-breeds, British Indians, was admitted in 1870, British Columbia in 1871. Prince Edward Island held

aloof till 1873, though a provision for her entry was written into the British North America Act. Alberta and Saskatchewan were made provinces in 1905, and it is to be noted that at the time of the Quebec resolutions these provinces were only vast unpopulated wildernesses.

Now let's consider first the position of Newfoundland in relation to the other British colonies of North America in those far-off days. In 1864 all those colonies were much of a muchness, but Newfoundland was in a unique position, as she has been all through her history. Nova Scotia and the others were flourishing colonies under the system of responsible government, which they had had for several years. Previous to this event, Mr. Chairman, Newfoundland was still feeling her oats as far as her problems were concerned. She had only won responsible government in 1855, nine years before; she had only been granted a representative form of government some 32 years before, while colonies like Nova Scotia and the rest of them had been enjoying such institutions for several generations, far back into the previous century.

The history of Newfoundland up to that time had been one of repression by the mother country. The story of retarded colonisation is so well known now to all of us, or should be, that there is no need to labour it, but while Newfoundlanders were loyal to the mother country they still could not forget the wrong that was done them, and just ten years before, when the French had been given concessions on their coast, a great outcry had been raised, and there was some talk of joining the United States. Imperial influence was a touchy point with Newfoundlanders, especially when it impinged on their independence so hard bought and so recently gained, and they were jealous of it, and they chose their individualism, and on that rock confederation foundered in 1869. There was too much suggestion of doing what Britain wanted about the whole matter in Newfoundlanders' eyes, half of whom at that time were Irish, and full of the wrongs of Ireland. To show you what I mean: from the time of the Quebec resolutions, beginning with the British North America Act, it was no secret that the British government wanted a confederation of the North American colonies. Major Cashin referred briefly to that the other day. That was the whole idea of the Quebec