

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources): So far as I know, the man in question is in Montreal. At the present time he is out on bail bond under habeas corpus proceedings, pending a decision by the courts following the dismissal by me of his appeal from our deportation order.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): May I ask a supplementary question? Is the minister aware that this man is a traitor, and that he betrayed allied soldiers to the gestapo?

TRADE**QUESTION AS TO DEVALUATION OF THE CANADIAN DOLLAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alan Cockeram (York South): May I direct a question to the Minister of Finance? In view of the increasing difficulties encountered by Canadian exports in world markets, is the government prepared to give an early decision on these questions: (a) allowing the Canadian dollar to find its own level in relation to other currencies, and (b) devaluing the Canadian dollar according to the Bretton Woods agreement?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): My hon. friend did not have an opportunity, I take it, of giving me notice of his question. It is one with which I have dealt on numerous occasions before. I do not think it is a matter of urgent public importance, and I am not prepared to deal with it now.

Mr. Cockeram: It certainly is important. You are losing trade every day.

NEWFOUNDLAND**APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): moved the second reading of Bill No. 11, to approve the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Mr. John R. MacNicol (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, during the last fifteen years I have given a good deal of study to problems affecting Newfoundland; therefore I should like to add some comments to what has already been said with regard to the measure now before us.

I wish to congratulate all four leaders upon the splendid addresses they delivered yesterday. I assume it is quite in order that I should say a special word about my own leader (Mr. Drew), who delivered an able and instructive address.

I first became interested in the question of Newfoundland through a study of the history of the Newfoundland regiment which served in the war of 1812. This study took me on a trip of over a thousand miles, because the

[Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North).]

Newfoundland regiment travelled 2,500 miles before seeing action in this country in the first year of that war. The Royal Newfoundland regiment was not large. The part of it which served in Canada at that time consisted of not more than fifty men, but they were fifty heroes. Having been born in Ontario I am proud of the part that regiment took in keeping Canada within the empire. I do not know what we would have done had they not come here at that time.

The Newfoundland regiment was brought here by General Brock. Before the war broke out, General Brock had been at Quebec city. Having come from the island of Guernsey, one of the Channel islands, the former home of many Newfoundlanders, General Brock desired a portion of the Newfoundland regiment to go with him to York, now called Toronto. This they did. Brock took them with him to what is now called Amherstburg, and they were not long there before they were in the thick of the fighting.

When Brock arrived before Detroit—or, as the English called the area at that time, the straits—he had with him about fifty of the Royal Newfoundland regiment. The euphonious French word, Detroit, has been applied to this place ever since. These fifty men participated in that great victory, the capture of Detroit, which helped Brock in the splendid work he did before his death. After that battle, members of this regiment remained in the forces in that part of Canada, in what was then called the “right division.”

I have made an exhaustive study of this period in our history in connection with the work I am doing for the restoration of the site of Moraviantown, in Kent county—Moraviantown was known in those days as Fairfield. The Royal Newfoundland regiment remained under Colonel Proctor in the “right division” and took part in the engagements on the Maumee. They fought up as far as Fort Wayne. They also took part in the attack by Proctor on Fort Meigs. I do not know whether they were at Fort Stevenson, Sandusky, but I presume they were. After the retreat of Proctor, the members of the Newfoundland regiment retreated with him. The majority of the party were taken prisoner east of the present city of Chatham when the boat in which they were ascending the Thames river was captured.

Later members of this regiment served in the vicinity of Toronto, then called York, and still later in the vicinity of Prescott in the attack on Ogdensburg. I shall not take the time of the house to enumerate all the points in which they served, but history records that on many fields a portion of the Royal Newfoundland regiment did a major job in Upper Canada and aided in preserving this part of Canada for the British empire.