

Newfoundland

are in Newfoundland, with some of his verses. May I read a few lines of one of his poems. Speaking of Newfoundland the poet says:

Here the tides flow,
And here they ebb;
Not with that dull, unsinewed tread of waters
Held under bonds to move
Around unpeopled shores—
Moon-driven through a timeless circuit
Of invasion and retreat;
But with a lusty stroke of life.

The lusty stroke of life of the tides that ebb and flow around the island of Newfoundland is repeated in the hundreds of thousands of hearts that beat in the breasts of the people who inhabit that land. It is because we believe in that lusty stroke of life that we are so happy to have them join with us, and to have those who know them judge us by the people with whom we are to be associated. We know that we are receiving into our midst a people stalwart and sturdy, a people with that lusty stroke of life. We hope they feel that they are joining a young and vigorous nation; that by joining it and becoming a part of it they will further the progress of the nation, and that if they do so, they will be rendering a service not only to the Canadian people but also to the men and women of the whole civilized world, because in these times there cannot be too many nations of vigorous men and women truly imbued with the principles and ideals of free democracy. The strengthening of any of them is a service not only to themselves but also to all other lovers of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

Perhaps I might be permitted another personal comment. It is a matter of some satisfaction to me to see the people of that island, the ancestors of so many of whom came from another island in the north Atlantic with which my own ancestors had some connection, become Canadian citizens. I would not mention this if I did not feel that I was but one of thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, in this country who have for those two islands in the north Atlantic a great admiration and affection.

In addition, I think it is something which all hon. members will feel I am entitled to regard as a reason for great personal satisfaction that on the very morrow of the day I assumed the responsibilities of the office of Prime Minister I was able to continue the work on which my predecessor had been engaged for so long, and to bring it to a successful conclusion. I am sure it will be a matter of satisfaction not only to the members of our party on this side of the house, but to most of the Canadian people, in view of what has been going on for the last decade and more, to be assured of continuity in the undertakings initiated by the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

government which has been in office over those years.

Therefore it is with understandable pride, sir, that I move that this address to His Majesty be approved by this house, and, together with that which I hope soon will be adopted in the other place, forwarded by you and the Speaker of the other place to His Majesty as the expression of our continued and continuing confidence in the value to free men and women of British institutions.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it was very properly pointed out that when the terms of the agreement between Newfoundland and Canada were before this house last week there was striking evidence of unanimity in the desire of those who sit here as representatives of the people of Canada that the dream of the fathers of confederation should be fulfilled by the inclusion of Newfoundland within the boundaries of Canada, as they envisaged it in 1864 and in the later discussions which led to confederation. I have made it clear, and in doing so have expressed the desire of those who are associated with me, that Newfoundland should become a part of Canada on terms satisfactory to them and to Canada, and that everything should be done to avoid misunderstanding or discontent which might disturb the new relationship thus established.

I give place to no one in this house in my desire to see the fulfilment of the dream of those who laid the foundation for a great and united nation covering the whole of the northern part of this continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Without elaborating, I have indicated already certain reasons why it seems to me personally that there is a strong sentimental appeal in the thought of Newfoundland becoming a part of Canada. In every way possible—and I feel sure in this I am expressing the sentiment of those associated with me—I would hope to further the union and the spirit of unity of the people of Newfoundland and of Canada as a whole.

Last week we were called upon to deal with a very short bill which had the effect of approving the terms of agreement between Newfoundland and Canada, as settled on the one hand by the representatives of the Canadian government and on the other hand by those appointed to come here from Newfoundland to discuss the terms. Throughout the discussion it was clear that it was the principle of union that was under consideration, and so far as the principle of union was concerned there seemed to be no dissenting voice. In discussing this subject I pointed out that while there had been a great deal of criticism of the course followed in Newfoundland in arriving at the terms of the agreement, it was not for us as representatives of the people of Canada to tell the people of our