

*Newfoundland*

nevertheless be imparted to other communities some of that strength which will help to preserve the freedom of mankind. May we not all wish and believe that a divine blessing will rest upon such a union.

**Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the wholehearted and genuine applause which greeted the former Prime Minister, the right hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King), upon his happily chosen words this afternoon, will be an indication to him of that unanimity, to which he referred in his remarks, with which the admirable people of Newfoundland will be welcomed into a great, and perhaps now an even greater, Dominion of Canada.

I have followed the right hon. gentleman in this debate; and, if I may, perhaps I might at this stage follow the procedure he adopted in a debate in 1943 on a somewhat similar matter, which procedure is reported at page 4347 of *Hansard* of July 5 of that year. He said:

Mr. Speaker, I intend to move at once that this question be now put.

Then the right hon. gentleman proceeds to indicate his authority for moving in that fashion. Basing my motion now upon the same authority as that used by the right hon. member for Glengarry, I desire at this stage to move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green):

That the question be now put.

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on the motion placed before the house, I wish to say that I feel sure every member in the house shares the feelings expressed by the right hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King) toward the people of Newfoundland, and the desire for harmonious union with that ancient colony more recently given the status of a dominion, the future of which is under consideration at this time.

Every speech—or shall I say nearly every speech—made in the debate has indicated the extremely warm feeling of the people of Canada as expressed through their representatives in the House of Commons towards those splendid people, whose background is so closely intertwined with our own. And there has been, almost without exception, a very strong feeling of sentimental attachment toward a people whose association in peace and war has brought to our own people an increasing respect for all that they represent.

Obviously, however, there has been some misunderstanding of certain aspects of the discussion which has taken place in this chamber. The issue which has been under discussion, and in relation to which many members have expressed their opinions, is not the issue of

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Newfoundland entering into the union of Canadian confederation, or otherwise. The discussion which has been taking place on the main motion is one relating to the procedure by which that association is to be consummated. Any attempt to create the impression that a discussion of the constitutional aspects of this problem is out of place in this debate is not in keeping with the position of this House of Commons, and is not in keeping with a recognition of the fundamental importance of the constitution, not only to the people of Canada, but to the people of Newfoundland who must look to that constitution as their assurance of the validity of the undertakings now given to them. And the very time we should be least willing to tamper with the provisions of our constitution in any way is the time when we extend the hand of friendship to the people of Newfoundland, and say to them, "Here are the terms we offer you; and, as an assurance of the sanctity of those terms, here is the constitution under which we live."

It is so easy to make statements to the effect that a different point of view has been expressed on different occasions. I would suggest to those hon. members who make these loose assertions, more designed for consumption outside than inside the house—

**An hon. Member:** How well you know it.

**Mr. Drew:**—that they bear in mind that there has been no more vigorous advocate of the sanctity of our constitution than the right hon. member for Glengarry, who has just spoken.

It was said last night by one hon. member immediately to my left that, after all, there were matters of urgent importance to consider, that we must examine those from the point of view of the welfare of the people of Newfoundland, and that we must not be too concerned with a mere argument as to technical details. This is not the first time discussions have taken place in the house on matters of great importance, and which were of great concern to many people at that time. It will be recalled that during the 1930's there were most urgent reasons for steps being taken to meet the very difficult conditions which arose at that time by reason of the economic storm which swept the whole world. It will be recalled by every member of the house that, in an effort to deal with the conditions which then existed, the Prime Minister of that time, who has been quoted in this debate, placed before the house legislation designed to meet some of these extremely difficult human problems which were causing concern to every thinking Canadian. It will be recalled that the various social security measures put forward by the Prime Minister of that day, the late Lord Bennett, did not