

*Newfoundland*

the more than two months from the 6th October until the 11th December of last year. On the 11th December the terms of union were signed by representatives of Canada and Newfoundland at the ceremony in the Senate chamber.

In addition, a number of points had been raised by the Newfoundland delegation in the course of the proceedings. Many of these were put in the form of written questions, and others were raised from time to time throughout the deliberations. It was decided in the end that they should be dealt with in a document accompanying the terms of union and headed, "Statements on questions raised by the Newfoundland delegation during the negotiations for the union of Newfoundland with Canada." These were transmitted by the Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent as Prime Minister of Canada in a letter dated December 11, 1948, addressed to Mr. Walsh, chairman of the Newfoundland delegation. He said in the letter:

During the course of our negotiations covering the final terms and arrangements for the union of Newfoundland with Canada, a number of questions concerning government policy were raised by your delegation and answered by the Canadian government. In addition a number of temporary administrative arrangements were settled in order to facilitate the union.

It would not seem fitting to include in formal terms of union matters of this kind, since they are scarcely of a constitutional nature. I am therefore sending you the enclosed memorandum covering these various items. While these will not form part of the terms of union, they contain statements of the policy and intentions of this government if union is made effective by the approval of the parliament of Canada and the government of Newfoundland, and confirmed by the parliament of the United Kingdom.

These statements in reply to the questions raised by the Newfoundland delegation were forwarded to the Newfoundland delegation and constitute a statement of government policy or administrative intentions on the various points that they cover.

I am sure hon. members will realize that this result was made possible by the assistance of very competent officials. Both the Newfoundland delegation and the Canadian representatives were fortunate in that respect. On the Canadian side a number of officials participated, representing every department, agency and activity of the government. I should like to refer particularly to the work done by our high commissioner in Newfoundland, Mr. J. Scott Macdonald, who was succeeded at the time of these negotiations by the Hon. Charles J. Burchell, K.C., who returned to Newfoundland for the purpose, and who assisted in the discussions by securing information for the government, and also by facilitating the Newfoundland government in obtaining information about the situation

in Canada. Through this instrumentality and also through other officials such as Mr. J. R. Baldwin, who was secretary of the conference and of the Canadian delegation, and Mr. R. A. MacKay of the Department of External Affairs, there was the freest possible interchange of information, and at every stage the work was facilitated in consequence of the public spirited service of these officials.

The Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), the member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell), and also the member for Peace River (Mr. Low), in their speeches this afternoon, referred to the character and the characteristics of the people of Newfoundland. Our experience during these negotiations extending over a period of a year and a half completely confirms everything that has been said in praise of the people of Newfoundland. Our experience could not have been better. It is also confirmed by the experience of the Canadian soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in Newfoundland during the war. The Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition referred to the great part played by Newfoundland in the first as well as in the second world war. It appears that in the first war a total of more than ten thousand residents of Newfoundland served in their own forces and in the forces of Great Britain, Canada, and the other allied countries. In the second world war a total of more than ten thousand served overseas, and in addition some 1,500 men and 600 women served in the Canadian armed forces. Altogether a total of something like 13,000 saw service of one kind or another. In his book "The Canadian Army, 1939-1945" Colonel C. P. Stacey, director of history, has this to say at page 43:

There was close co-operation between the Canadian and Newfoundland governments from the outbreak of war. Newfoundland afforded all facilities to the R.C.A.F.; Canada provided Newfoundland with equipment including some coast defence guns; and when France collapsed in June, 1940, steps were immediately taken to safeguard the great airport at Gander and the seaplane base at Botwood. An infantry battalion and a flight of bomber reconnaissance aircraft, now hastily despatched, were only the vanguard of larger forces.

Then Colonel Stacey goes on to describe the very close co-operation at sea, on land and in the air between our armed forces. In a book to be published shortly under the authority of the Minister of National Defence, on naval operations during the war, written by Joseph Schull, this is said:

St. John's was a hospitable and storied capital where few men lacked a home to go to for a meal. There were friendly hostels, provided, stocked and operated by Canadian service organizations; and there was a St. John's hospitality committee which could receive and fill without blinking the request of an incoming ship for a hundred girls and a dance "tonight" . . .