

*Newfoundland*

to the houses of parliament if we did not make known to them what declarations as to policy we had made during the course of the discussions. It was for that reason that these statements were made up.

Many more things were talked about than are referred to in these statements. We asked the Newfoundland delegation to give us an indication of all the things that they were taking as probable future happenings, and we said that we would put them in the document that we would produce before parliament. We would not ask parliament to make these part of the terms of union but parliament would know what this government intended to do so long as it was the government responsible for the direction of affairs.

I have not looked at the terms, but with respect to the electoral boundaries my recollection is that they were told that, after each decennial census, a redistribution bill was introduced and a committee set up to consider the boundaries of each constituency and to make a report to parliament. They were told that with respect to the boundaries of the Newfoundland constituencies that would come about in the regular way.

There were some members who did not want to take the responsibility for those boundaries because they said that they did not know enough about where the lines would run to want them to be permanent boundaries. They were quite satisfied that they be the boundaries for the first election and that somebody else should take the responsibility of saying what should be the boundaries of the constituencies for future elections. They were told that that responsibility would be taken, in the first instance, by the committee of the house that studied the matter and reported to parliament and, ultimately, by parliament when approving or disapproving of the recommendations made by the committee.

**Mr. Green:** I raised the question because some of the statements are an indication of government policies while others say that further consideration will be given to this or that subject and then agreement will be reached. In reading over the pamphlet it seemed to me that several things had been left in the air, that they have not yet been decided, and apparently are to be dealt with at a later date.

For example, there is the question of responsibility for the Northern Labrador Trading Operations, which is to be the subject of discussions between Canada and Newfoundland, or if necessary the province of Newfoundland. Then reference is made to penitentiaries and the question whether national harbours will be set up in Newfoundland.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

What is the intention of the government with respect to these particular items where obviously no conclusion has been reached as yet but on which conclusion is to be reached shortly? Will there be further agreements, or just what does the government plan to do?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** These are matters which would be determined either by the Canadian government, under its responsibility to the Canadian parliament, or by the government of the island, under its responsibility to the legislature, according to where the jurisdiction may lie.

With respect to penitentiaries, there will have to be an agreement with the province. They were told it was unlikely, that probably it would be undesirable to establish a federal penitentiary in Newfoundland, and that it probably would also be undesirable to bring prisoners convicted by the courts of Newfoundland to the penitentiary at Dorchester because of the inconvenience to their families or friends when visiting them. It was stated that for the start there would be made an arrangement whereby the Canadian government, being responsible for the care and maintenance of those sentenced to terms of two years or more, would undertake to reimburse the government of Newfoundland for caring for these prisoners in the provincial jails.

That is something which will have to be worked out and we would hope to have it worked out in a manner that would be most satisfactory to the people of Newfoundland and to the Canadian people. There is another provision concerning certain boats that are presently owned by the government of Newfoundland.

**Mr. Green:** Clarenville boats?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Yes, Clarenville boats. They are operated in a manner which is conducive to the development of the trade of Newfoundland. They carry relatively small cargoes of fish down to ports they can get into and that large boats carrying heavier cargoes cannot visit, and from those ports they bring back commodities that enter into the trade of Newfoundland. It is a desirable trade for the economy of Newfoundland. It might be very undesirable to attempt to have these boats operated by the Canadian National steamship lines, because then their operation would come under the collective agreements between the steamship lines and the seamen, which might make the operation of these boats so costly that instead of being profitable it would be detrimental to the economy of Newfoundland. There had not been time or opportunity to determine just what would be the most practicable way of continuing the operation of those boats in order to benefit the economy of the island. There a question arose as to whether the