

Newfoundland

someone said yesterday, there may be differences of opinion, but there are differences of opinion about many matters of importance, and I shall not worry about that. I like the remarks made by my leader in that regard. I thought he handled the subject effectively and satisfactorily, as did the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis.) We have an opportunity to do something for these people, to make them happy after Newfoundland becomes part of the confederation.

In addition to the roadway I have suggested I would strongly recommend that we have a new boat for the service between North Sydney and Port aux Basques. The last time I went across the strait I remember that the boat was a small one. It was satisfactory; I have nothing but compliments for it, but a new boat should be constructed so that freight cars as well could be transported. The narrow gauge railway from Port aux Basques to St. John's should be widened to standard gauge. I realize that it would take some time to do this, but it would make the people of Newfoundland happy that they had come into union with Canada. It would result in a great deal of business to them and to us also.

Let us consider Newfoundland as a tourist centre. We can say that every province in Canada is a magnificent tourist centre, and so it is. Newfoundland is a tourist's paradise. It has magnificent bays all around the island. As my leader said yesterday, when John Cabot and his son first reached Newfoundland they were so strongly impressed by what they saw that they called the place Bonavista, which means "beautiful view", and it certainly is a beautiful view. That name could be applied to any of the magnificent bays about the island. Then up in the north, at the centre of the island, as those who have been there know, for two hours before you arrive you see high projections or peaks which they call the Topsails. They are named the Foresail, the Mizzen Topsail, the Main Topsail and the Gaff Topsail. The view which they present is a topographical wonder, well worth anyone's trouble and expense to go to see; and so all over the island. It is a natural paradise.

Finally, Newfoundland has magnificent ores, one of which I have mentioned, iron. Iron ore from that country is the basis on which the fine city of Sydney has been built. I hope that every effort will be made to keep the Sydney plants in operation, using the iron ore which will now probably come in in larger quantities. It came in free of duty anyway. It is obtained at Bell island, not far from St. John's. I have been there. It is a very high grade ore, and a resource which can help to build up eastern Canada. We must do all we can to build up eastern Canada.

[Mr. MacNicol.]

In the addition of seven representatives to the membership of the House of Commons, and six in the other place, the union of Newfoundland with Canada will greatly strengthen the delegation from the maritime provinces. From the maritimes we now have twenty-six members in the House of Commons and twenty-four in the other place. The members and senators from Newfoundland will be a welcome addition to the strength of the maritime delegation—and it cannot be too strong. If the electricity program I announced last year were carried out in its entirety, the delegation from there would be doubled. I am happy to say that at the conclusion of my speech in 1941 I said that the island would be entitled to seven members in the House of Commons and five in the other place.

I am pleased at having had some small part in creating favourable sentiment towards union, both in Canada and in Newfoundland. I have been given some credit for that in the press in Newfoundland. I created favourable sentiment here, particularly through the Newfoundlanders in my own riding. I feel that I have had some small part in bringing about this sentiment in Canada, in relation to a project which has been mooted since 1858, as the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Drew) said yesterday. I take a good deal of satisfaction in having had a small part in the creation of the feeling which has brought this grand climax to the whole program of the fathers of confederation, namely, the bringing in of Newfoundland to form the tenth province of Canada.

Mr. T. L. Church (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the committee which considered the Labrador case, and I took part in the debate regarding that important part of Newfoundland. As hon. members know, Labrador was given to Newfoundland by a decision of the privy council. It had been under the protection of the British government, you might say; a governor had been appointed to the territory and Labrador was given to Newfoundland.

I wish to bring before the house the questions which were before the committee at that time. First of all, according to Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms*:

The second reading of a bill is that stage when it is proper to enter into a discussion and propose a motion relative to the principle of the measure.

According to May, the last edition:

The second reading of a private bill corresponds with the same stage in other bills, and in agreeing to it the house affirms the general principle or expediency of the measure.

The present Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) was minister of justice at the time this other matter was under discussion. I hold