

Newfoundland

government of the island could operate boats in international trade, and that was not finally determined. The outcome was, "Well, we all know that we want to have done that which will best contribute to the economy of the island, but at the present time we do not know what that will have to be. We will trust each other and work out something satisfactory in that regard."

Mr. Green: These are more or less loose ends that will have to be tied up as the information becomes available?

Mr. St. Laurent: That is so; just as there is another loose end with respect to public property, for example.

Mr. Knowles: I hesitate to raise a point of order when the Prime Minister is seeking to be helpful in connection with these matters, but would it not be better if we took up these things in relation to the proper clauses?

Mr. Green: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is always very free with his advice to other hon. members as to how we should follow the rules of the house. I brought up this question because in this statement there is one paragraph which deals with elections, and I wanted to know how that was to be tied in with the sections in the terms. I submit that the right hon. Prime Minister is perfectly in order in explaining just how these statements tie in with the terms of union.

Mr. Knowles: Not at all.

Mr. Pearkes: Following the suggestion made by the hon. member for Royal, I strongly urge that, when these appointments are being made, full consideration be given to the ex-servicemen of Newfoundland. I am quite certain the denominational question should not cause any difficulty, because there will have been distinguished ex-servicemen in all three denominations mentioned by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Jaenicke: I am worried about the words "British North America Act, 1867 to 1946," in section 5. I hesitate to say very much because of the statement made a few moments ago by the Prime Minister that some eminent counsel and the law officers of the crown drafted this agreement; but supposing we have an amendment to the British North America Act subsequent to this date, dealing with the representation in the House of Commons and the Senate. Is the Prime Minister satisfied that Newfoundland, the new province, could not take the position that they would not be bound by a subsequent amendment, in view of this wording? Should it not read "1867 and amendments thereto"?

Mr. St. Laurent: This is the official description of the British North America Acts determined by the parliament of the United Kingdom. Each of the amending statutes contains a provision substantially along this line: "This act may be known as the British North America Act, 1946; and this act and the others may be described together as the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1946." The description is always of the original and all those up to the date of the one that is mentioned.

Mr. Jaenicke: I realize that; but supposing we have another amendment, say in 1950 or 1951. Would not Newfoundland then be in a position, if they do not agree with that amendment, to say, "We are not bound by it, because we are only bound by the amendments to the British North America Act up to 1946"?

Mr. St. Laurent: No. That matter was given serious consideration, and a provision was even drafted and considered by the law officers providing that the reference to any act would mean that act or any amendments made or to be made thereto. However, they came to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to have this kind of statement, that the interpretation acts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United Kingdom were sufficient in that regard.

Mr. Cruickshank: I want to ask the Prime Minister one question in regard to this. As I understand it, the new province is to have the same number of members in the other place as we are, though their population is just equal to that of one of our towns. Will they have the same number of parliamentary assistants that we have?

Sections 4, 5 and 6 agreed to.

On section 7—*Provincial constitution.*

Mr. Green: This paragraph provides that the constitution of Newfoundland is revived at the date of union and shall continue as the constitution of the province, and so on. Can the Prime Minister tell us how the constitution of Newfoundland will be amended once this union takes place?

Mr. St. Laurent: The constitution of the province of Newfoundland will be subject to amendment by the legislature of Newfoundland under the first subsection of section 92 of the British North America Act. They will have the right to amend their constitution in every respect save in respect of the office of lieutenant governor, just as every other Canadian province has that right.

Mr. Macdonnell (Muskoka-Ontario): How is it the parliament of Canada has power to revive the constitution of Newfoundland? In