

## RESOLVED THAT NEWFOUNDLAND SHOULD BECOME A PROVINCE OF CANADA

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One of the much talked about and debated ideas current in today's problems is that "*Newfoundland should become a Province of Canada.*" The following are some arguments against this proposal, based on the assumption that it would be mutually beneficial for union to take place. I contend that any other interpretation would be merely attempting to avoid the issue.

"Mutual" means quite simply.....common to two or more..... and "beneficial" means advantageous.

Now we must examine the facts in an effort to discover just how advantageous to both countries Newfoundland's confederation with Canada would be.

I should like to deal shortly with the inevitable argument concerning the extension of social legislation in effect in Canada to Newfoundland once union comes about. Undoubtedly long lists of statistics can be cited as to just what material advantages Newfoundland stands to gain and such things as old age pensions, family allowances and other advantages will be mentioned. Just here I would like to make an analogy to the situation where a rich man offers his poor neighbour food, warmth and shelter. The poor neighbour jumps at the idea until he realizes that the price he must pay for the security offered is his independence.

Independence means a great deal to the people of Newfoundland and it is my conviction that if a vote were taken tomorrow on the proposed confederation, the plan would be emphatically rejected.

We must consider this matter from a Newfoundlander's point of view and ask ourselves whether these 320,000 people with their passion for independence—a feeling which doesn't necessarily bear any relation to the size of their bank account—can be readily and smoothly assimilated into the Dominion of Canada.

I contend that loss of independence and freedom to work out their own destiny would react unfavourably in so far as the new province's relations with the rest of Canada are concerned and, therefore, on this ground confederation would not be mutually beneficial.

Next, let us consider the constitutional problem involved in confederation. There is the argument, that the B. N. A. Act provides for the admission of Newfoundland into confederation. Just because this statutory provision is included in the Act there is no reason for saying that an easy and efficient implementation of it would follow. It is quite obvious to all of us that today Canadian constitutional problems are in a most unsettled state and if Canada is to fulfill her proper role in world affairs and at the same time meet her domestic difficulties, changes must be made in the B. N. A. Act. I feel that it is not sound policy to further complicate matters at this time and such complication is bound to result if Newfoundland becomes the tenth province.

Striking evidence of the trouble which has already been caused by the mere sending of a delegation to Ottawa to discuss union was demonstrated by Premier Duplessis, who has insisted that before any commitments are made, provincial governments should be consulted and his views have been endorsed by the Premiers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

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Therefore, I contend that confederation would not be mutually beneficial because of the further aggravation of Canada's constitutional difficulties which would result. Dominion-Provincial relations are in a sorry enough state as it is.

Unquestionably, finance is the most formidable barrier which must be cleared if confederation is to take place. It is commonly estimated that the internal revenue of Newfoundland under confederation would be some \$4,000,000. Tax arrangements with Ottawa would bring in perhaps another \$5,000,000.00 and anticipated possible subsidies an additional \$2,000,000.00, leaving a discrepancy between revenue and expenditure of at least \$4,000,000.00. This "missing link" constitutes a most serious problem and it is beyond the power of Newfoundland in her present state of development to make up the difference. The burden which would result to Canada in assuming this "fairy-godmother" role to Newfoundland would be out of all proportion to any advantage this country might receive from union.

We should all be aware of the great commitments which the Minister of Finance has made—and quite rightly made—to the countries of Europe but perhaps we are not aware that in his statement a week or two ago he said that the Government HOPED to be able to meet these commitments. I suggest that a further drain on the finances of this country would be foolhardy and unjustified. Canada with its population of 12,000,000 has now reached the saturation point in so far as commitments beyond the ordinary running expenses of the country are concerned.

In view of the extremely precarious monetary situation prevailing in the world today and the fact that Canada is so heavily involved in aiding distressed countries, it would not be beneficial to this country to add further to her responsibilities.

Newfoundlanders are a happy and an independent people whose interests can best be served by letting them manage their own affairs and plan their own destiny. Certain internal reforms are overdue and a combination of them would result in better social conditions for the peoples of the Island. Canada, however, is faced with heavy financial responsibilities elsewhere and Canadians are being taxed to the limit. It would be unsound and extremely risky to add to the burdens now facing us.

Surely then we must be realists and agree that the price Canada must pay for confederation in money and the price Newfoundland must pay in loss of cherished independence would not make confederation mutually beneficial. Constitutional and financial problems would have to be faced and also the difficulty of assimilating a strongly independent people. On these grounds I contend that it would not be beneficial to have Newfoundland join with Canada.

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## MADDOX vs. McINTYRE

NEW PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED

Paul B. Maddox, second-year student, finally succumbed to female charms and in November married Constance McIntyre. The student body wishes every success to the new partnership.