

Much has been written about her, and many monuments have been erected in her honour. But more eloquent than all that has been written, more inspiring than any marble testimonial, stands the mountain which perpetuates her memory, serene, white-capped Mount Edith Cavell—a fitting monument for a noble woman.

—DOREEN CUSACK '58

PRESENTING NEWFOUNDLAND

(It is a well known fact that most Canadians know little or nothing about Newfoundland, the tenth and newest province. It is for the benefit of those of our readers who may belong to this group that this factual sketch is presented in the hope that it will help to clarify the picture of Newfoundland that exists in the minds of so many Canadians.)

On the morning after that eventful day when Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province, rain was pouring down on our ancient colony's capital city, St. John's. The elevator of the Newfoundland Hotel was filled with the most recent group of 'mainland' salesmen who had come to capture their share of Newfoundland business now that the Island's tariff would be abolished. Some of them were more than vigorously expressing their utter disgust with the weather. One of them came forth with the sarcastic remark, "Why don't they give this place back to the Indians"?

He had scarcely finished when the little elevator girl stopped with an emphatic jerk at the floor he had called, and with a swift glance over the distinguished group she looked up into the 'mainlander's face and replied, "Mister, we did that yeserday."

This story, told in numerous editions, reflects the bitter opposition of many Newfoundlanders to Confederation, an opposition which for the past century has been a potent factor in Newfoundland politics. For nearly half a thousand years Newfoundland had been conscious of a separate identity. In 1497, a generation before Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence, John Cabot returned from his landing at Bonavista (about a hundred miles north of St. John's on the East coast of Newfoundland), and reported to his patron, King Henry VII of England, the discovery of this "Newe-founde Launde". Although there was an immediate rush of fishermen towards this new land whose waters were said to be "teaming with fish", it was not until nearly a hundred years later, in 1583, that Sir Humphrey Gilbert, under the authority of Queen Elizabeth I, established in St. John's, the first overseas British Colony. And it was in 1615, when the first court of Justice was set up in Newfoundland, that civilized law was first brought to the new world.

Since that time Newfoundland has been referred to as a "unique laboratory of civil administration". In the course of its colourful history it has had eight different forms of government, including Representative, Amalgamated, Responsible, Commission of Government, and finally Confederation with the Dominion of Canada.

It is not true to say that the majority of Newfoundlanders rushed into Confederation as soon as it was offered to them. Far from it! As far back as the 1850's Newfoundland had been invited to participate in the negotiations which eventually brought about the Confederation of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1867. And to give some idea of the opinion of the majority of Newfoundlanders, regarding the proposed Confederation, even at that time, we quote here a stanza from one of the popular ballads of the day.

"Three cheers for our own loved isle, Newfoundland!
No stranger shall hold an inch of her strand.
Her face turns to Britain, her back to the Gulf,
Come near at your peril, you Canadian wolf."

Several attempts at Confederation were made later in the nineteenth century but each one was overwhelmingly defeated. The great majority of Newfoundlanders lingered long in hostility to Confederation. While many may have based their feelings on rational grounds—the majority were moved by a deep pride in their status as an independant dominion. Newfoundland has been an independant country for many generations. She had had her own currency and had enjoyed all the privileges of an independant state. Even in days of depression it was difficult for many to consider the idea of relinquishing all claims to independance when they had enjoyed these rights and privileges for so long. And when finally Confederation was effected on March 31, 1949, it was only a slim majority—some fifty two percent—who favoured it.

Since that time it must be admitted that many anti-confederates have come to realize that maybe Confederation was more beneficial to the average Newfoundlander than had been previously thought. There can be no doubt that Union of Newfoundland with the Dominion of Canada has proven to be of substantial benefit to the Federal Treasury as well as to the people of Newfoundland. On the one hand Newfoundland has added to Canadian industries the largest papermaking plant in the world and has augmented the Canadian economy with fisheries, which, with modern improvements in catching, processing and marketing, offer enormous potentialities. She has expanded Canada's industry with long time reserves of iron ore not to mention the fabulous water power in Labrador which engineers can now harness to the machinery of production plants in Central Canada. Newfoundland Labrador also offers tremendous mineral wealth as evidenced by recent finds of Uranium and other valuable minerals. Moreover, geographically

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Newfoundland has rounded out Canada's strategic position, while politically, she has augmented Canada's population with more than 415,000 citizens. And on the other hand, the average Newfoundlander has benefited as a result of Confederation. Many who could never afford more than the bare essentials of life are now enjoying the luxuries of modern day living and employment has reached a record high. Throughout most of our island province prosperity is the 'order of the day', and while there is no reason to suspect that this prosperity will last indefinitely—neither does the contrary seem probable in the immediate future.

Those who picture Newfoundland as little more than a fishing province would do well to take note of this rapidly changing Newfoundland. Time was when Fishing held a position of prime importance in the Newfoundland economy. However, today Paper-Making and Mining have assumed leading roles on the Industrial scene. Fewer people are engaged in Fishing, which now places emphasis on the manufacture of the fresh frozen product for export and the domestic trade.

Since 1949 the Provincial Government, utilizing a surplus of some forty million dollars accumulated by the previous administration, has launched an intensive programme of industrialization. These new secondary industries numbering some twenty five in all include a multi-million dollar machinery plant, the largest in Eastern Canada. Other plants manufacture cement, gypsum products, hardwoods and furniture, wollen and cotton textiles, leather goods, shoes, and gloves. Most recent additions to the industrial scene have been an electronics company which also produces films, and a confectionary plant—the finished products of which are already enjoying a wide spread popularity.

These industries are the result of investments of millions of dollars by the Newfoundland Government. While it may be some time before each individual industry proves itself financially profitable, already some have done so, and have developed a substantial export and local trade while at the same time they have led to the opening of new avenues of employment.

This industrial revolution has wrought a radical change in Newfoundland's economy which augurs well for present and future generations. But the standard of living in Newfoundland is still not on an equal basis with that of some of the other provinces. The final chapter in Newfoundland's Confederation with Canada will be written next year when a Royal Commission, appointed under the Terms of Union, will decide to what extent these terms of Union should be revised. On the findings of this Royal Commission, which will base its report on the work of a local commission which has laboured tirelessly for the past three years in the interests of a better Newfoundland, will depend the ultimate decision of the Federal Government with regard to how much assistance is still needed to place Newfoundland on a par with the other provinces.

Every Newfoundlander hopes that the Government of Canada will recognize its duties and obligations in this regard, and we are optimistic that the revision of the Terms of Union will enable all Newfoundlanders to have the benefits which they now have a right to expect as citizens of the Dominion of Canada.

—BOB DOYLE '59—

SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG

Those who attended the lecture of Miss Reid on November 4th, 1956, certainly had a glimpse of this island of freedom, Hong Kong, which stands only a few yards outside the bamboo curtain. It would be, therefore, very interesting for us to know something more about this place.

Since I am a student, I think it is fitting and proper for me to describe the schools of Hong Kong in general. First of all, what are the schools there like?

There are, in general, two kinds of schools distinct from each other in the languages used for lectures, namely, the Chinese and the English schools; and this is true only for high schools. As there is only one university in Hong Kong, I shall treat it separately.

It is obvious that there must be some differences between the two kinds of schools. What are they then?

Chinese children usually go to the Chinese schools. At the age of four or five, they are usually sent to the kindergarten, if their parents can afford the expense. After going through a two-year course in the kindergarten they enter the primary school. The training they receive there is basically the same as here in Canada. It takes them a total of six years to cover the Primary school course. After that they enter the Middle School (High School). There are, also, six years in the Middle School—the first three years are called the Juniors and the second three years, the Seniors. The first three years do not matter too much, but during the next three years the students have to work very hard; for at the end of them, there is a public examination given by the Education Department; and certificates are distributed to the successful candidates. To pass this examination one has to acquire a minimum of five subjects, the Chinese language, a second language (usually English), mathematics, a science, and a social subject. the graduates are, then fitted to attend colleges. (Those who wish to enter the Hong Kong University must go through the matriculation class in the English schools which will be discussed later.) These schools are privately owned, except one which comes directly under the Education Department. So much for the Chinese schools.

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