

## PHILATELIC END FOR NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1946 ?

By Rev. John S. Bain

It is theoretically possible that Newfoundland could have its philatelic end in 1946! One shudders to think of such a thing happening to a country that has long been at the top of the list of countries collected by philatelists. The year 1946 may give us the answer. Britain's oldest Colony is being watched keenly for any indications of trends which will tell the outcome.

It will be remembered that Newfoundland ceased to be a self-governing colony when Britain took over in 1933, owing to a financial crisis which would have resulted in bankruptcy. It became a Crown Colony under a Commission Government administered from London, England.

However, Britain has offered Newfoundland the right to hold elections to elect a constitutional convention by the middle of the year. Out of this election there can come one of the biggest political developments in British North America since the days of Confederation in 1867.

Political observers believe that out of a constitutional convention a plebiscite will be called for and the people of Newfoundland asked any or all of the following questions:

1. Will the island continue under its commission form of government?
2. Will the island re-adopt responsible self-government?
3. Will the island enter the Canadian confederation as a province?

Senator A. N. McLean, Liberal member for New Brunswick and prominent in the Maritime fishing industry, recently returned from a trip to Newfoundland, stated that after interviewing key men on the island that they looked upon with favor the possibilities of Newfoundland joining with Canada. Senator McLean said to the press, "There is no doubt in my opinion they are intending eventually to make a change."

Since the war, Canada has invested more than \$100,000,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador as part of defense. The rich mineral deposits of Newfoundland need the help of Canada for future world markets. While Canada views with favour the entrance of Newfoundland to the Confederation, she has strictly maintained a policy of neutrality on the issue. Prime Minister Mackenzie King has already gone on record in a speech in 1943, that should a confederation take place, the initiative would have to come from Newfoundland.

Should Newfoundland answer "yes" to question 3, then Canada would be the only stamp issuing country of British North America left. What an effect this would have on the future of Newfoundland stamps is hard to say, but I would venture a prophecy that in time Newfoundland prices would fall and the stamps lose their popularity among collectors. It becomes quite apparent that 1946 could see the end of philately for Newfoundland.

One bright spot remains however, Canada may issue a stamp in honor of Newfoundland entering the Confederation!

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## SALES DEPARTMENT NEWS

H. R. Myers, Sales Manager

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Requests for circuits are coming in slowly. New material is being entered, but also slowly. This department gives members an opportunity to take an active part in their organization with a minimum of effort, yet the response is comparatively poor.

Those who receive the circuits—please read the rules. They are pasted in each book—they are simple, but important. When you observe the Rules, it saves lots of trouble; when you don't, it causes added headaches. So, please, have a heart and do the necessary.

Send in your duplicates to be entered in the circuit and get cash in return. Make a fellow collector happy and give your S. M. a little less to gripe about. Checks were sent out to some lucky members who had entered their stamps for sale. One received over \$60. Another, over \$20. A nice Christmas present, eh what! I like to send checks, maybe you like to get them. Let's get together. Send in your duplicate material and start drawing dividends for a Happy New Year.