

Our relations, then, must be built on knowledge and understanding and not merely on sentiment. So far as knowledge is concerned, we Canadians have more to complain about than you. It is natural, however, that we should know more about you than you do about us. We are a small country, in population. Though short on quantity, we are, of course, long on quality: We have too few people and too much geography. Furthermore, it is only during recent years that we have gained complete constitutional control of our own affairs. Previously, we were lumped as colonials with "those British". What we do, or do not do, does not often make much difference to you. We are friendly and well disposed, and can be taken for granted. We do not normally even have enough nuisance value to command attention - until we begin to restrict the importation of oranges from California and vegetables from Texas.

We have little exotic appeal, except as lone trappers or indomitable Mounties. We are merely the country from which the hockey players and the cold waves come, and which provides occasional headlines when five babies are born to one mother, or a doctor discovers insulin or we uncover a nest of spies, or a new gold mine. We have, in fact, been lacking in colourful appeal, except possibly in Quebec, where the people, speaking another language, are different enough to be quaint and interesting to you. It is always exciting, of course, to try out your high school French, but if you did it in Toronto, Winnipeg or Vancouver, you would probably be answered in high school "American". Why, even politically and historically, we haven't much sex appeal. We change our governments - when we do change them - by general elections, which aren't, I fear, as exciting as yours, though conducted, we think, with much less fuss and waste motion and more efficiency. Certainly we have nothing that could compare with a Latin American revolution as a method of political change.

On the other hand, I assure you that we know all about you. You have made certain of that through films, radio, magazines, books and even speeches. Canadian cities are on the North American circuit and the North American wave length. Much of what we know gives us confidence and hope. Some things cause us anxiety, as I know they do you. We view your activities with a friendly but not a flatterer's eye. How can we help being worried, when we realize that on the foreign and domestic policies of this great, newly-awakened, reluctant giant, which has had world responsibilities imposed on it without its own contriving, depend to a great extent our own prosperity and our own hopes of peace.

It has been said that the British Empire was established in a fit of absence of mind. It is far more accurate to say that the power of the United States in the world, a power now decisive, was established against the will of Americans, who were quite content without it. But there it is, and there it will remain. Canada, like other countries, however at times feels a shade uneasy at the realization that her destiny lies to such a great extent in the hands of another country. At the same time, as the people who know you best, Canadians can tell the other peace-loving nations of their good fortune that this power is in the hands of a people who are decent, democratic and pacific; unambitious for imperial pomp or rule.

We are, then your closest neighbour, your most candid friend and your most constructive critic. It is therefore essential that we should have, not a better knowledge of you, we have that; but a better understanding of your problems, and appreciation of your motives and actions. You on your part, as I have said, should, I think, learn more about a country which is now of great importance to you, in war and peace.

Therefore, as a Canadian speaking the fellow-Americans, I would like to tell you something of our basic facts of life and how they affect you.