

*Symbols of national unity and international amity*

So much for similarities which are not without their significance. There are differences, however, which are of even greater significance to the world to-day. The Thames, from its source to the sea, is within the confines of a single State. Its waters are national in character. The waters of the St. Lawrence, in considerable part, are international waters. They serve to divide, as well as to unite. The possibilities of friction between the two countries are not lessened by the fact that their boundary, in part, is a vast inland waterway which stretches a thousand miles and more from the interior of the continent to the sea. Over the greater part of that distance rivers and lakes constitute the international frontier between Canada and the United States.

The bridge at Chelsea serves to emphasize and enhance the inheritance of commerce and culture shared by those who dwell on either bank of the Thames—a single people in one country. This Thousand Islands Bridge serves to emphasize and, we cannot doubt, will enhance through the years, the inheritance of commerce and culture shared by the peoples on either bank of the St. Lawrence—not one people, but two. The bridge at Chelsea stands as a symbol of national unity; this bridge is a symbol of international amity. It constitutes yet another of the many bonds which join two peoples who rival one another, not in enmities or in armaments, but in devotion to the ways of peace and the spirit of conciliation. Upon a bridge, itself a symbol of international friendship and good-will, we are celebrating once again a century and more of peace between the United States and Canada. When we reflect upon the disputed frontiers which threaten peace in other quarters of the globe, we cannot but feel that the ceremony in which we are participating has in it something of significance to the world.

*A common background: an insufficient guarantee of peace*

It may be thought that we owe our achievement to a common background; or that it is due to Chance that our frontiers differ so greatly from the frontiers of states on other continents. It is true