

French-speaking Canadians are most definitely not transplanted Frenchmen but Canadians. Their political connection with France was severed nearly 200 years ago. They have more generations of North American ancestors than any other national group on the continent north of the Rio Grande except the Indians and Eskimos.

Then Canada, too, is a northern country. Canadians cannot escape from winter by travelling to a Canadian Florida or California. They share the pleasant amenities of the United States in this regard. They cannot grow oranges or sugarcane or cotton. Northerners are supposed to be more conservative, slower to change their views and ways. One must not, however, stress climate too much, for a good part of Canada is south of a good part of the United States. If that statement surprises you, look at the map. There is no climatic boundary line, in spite of the story of the old lady who was relieved, when the section of the boundary on which she lived was resurveyed, to find her house was really in the United States after all, because, she said, it was so much colder in Canada. Whatever the cause, it is probably true to say that the Canadian public is not very prone to rapid changes of opinion.

Another difference, subtle and profound, I shall only refer to in passing, for to explain it fully would require a lengthy lecture on the art of democratic government. We organize our system of government in Canada in a way very different from that in the United States. The King's representative is head of the state, as is the President; but he is not head of the government and he has no political power. The chief of the government is the Prime Minister. He must be an elected member of the House of Commons and so must the other Ministers who head the departments of government and together form the Cabinet. Unless the Cabinet can steadily maintain support of a majority in the House of Commons they must resign or appeal to the people at a new general election. There can be no protracted deadlock between legislature and executive, because they are intertwined. Both must always be controlled by members of the same political party, and the leaders in the legislature of that party make up the Government.

I could elaborate on the consequences of these differences at some length. All I will say now, dogmatically, is that they affect many aspects of national life. They produce a different attitude towards law, towards public administration, towards political parties. I do not suggest that the Canadian system is necessarily better or more democratic than the division of powers in the United States. Both governments draw their authority from the people at the polls.

These are a few of the obvious differences between our two nations. They do not obscure the central harmony. Except for the tiny French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon our countries share the continent north of the Rio Grande. Both are very large; both are inhabited by skillful and progressive people. Although one is far more populous, wealthy and powerful than the other, they look forward to living together indefinitely in peace and friendship. Whatever their differences in ways of life, their peoples share the same fundamental aims. If their relationship to each other could be extended to all the nations of the world, armies and navies could be disbanded and atomic bombs forgotten.

Unfortunately there is no prospect that this will take place. I wish, therefore, to say something about the place of North America in the dangerous world of today.

When the Charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945 it would have been thought almost incredible that the victorious allies, who had won the war with so much effort and bloodshed, would soon be ranged in two great opposing groups. Yet that is what has happened, and we know from bitter

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