

principal reasons which brought about their confederation into the Dominion of Canada.

During the latter half of last century the relations between Canada and the United States steadily bettered but the Alaska Boundary Dispute which again came to life at the opening of the new century, showed that doubtful feeling and anxiety were not far beneath the surface. In the award the British representative on the Commission voted with the United States against Canada, prompting the Prime Minister of the day to declare that Canada had once more been 'sacrificed on the altar of British diplomacy'. To what extent this might have been true is open to question and there are among the recent historians (Stephen Leacock) those who maintain not only that the decision in the Alaska Boundary strictly followed the evidence, but also that it was very fortunate for Canada in her early immature years not to have had the responsibility of the Alaska-panhandle littoral, a responsibility which might have been so serious vis-a-vis Japan as to have overtaxed our strength and thus have become a further cause for concern in our relations with the United States.

Certainly until this century was well along there was little recognition of common interest with the people of the U.S.A. and instead of the realization that the dangers of aggression lay in sources external to the North American continent, we in Canada viewed somewhat anxiously and perhaps not without reason, the intentions of the Government of the United States. The feeling at the time is evidenced by what took place in 1911 when Reciprocity was proposed in Customs arrangements. A casual remark by the then President of the United States that Reciprocity would lead to the absorption of Canada was enough to upset the mind of our people, and "no truck nor trade with the Yankees" became the slogan with which Borden swept the Government of Laurier out of office.

There then followed the Agadir incident in North Africa and in Canada our eyes centered on the growing German menace. We went to war in 1914 in the words of Prime Minister Borden "to maintain the integrity of the British Empire".

War was declared on 4 August 1914, and seven weeks later on 22 September there sailed from Quebec the first Canadian Division some 30,000 strong. This Contingent took with it practically all the guns, ammunition and equipment in the country. There were some United States citizens enrolled in this force which no doubt contributed substantially to the feeling that the interests of the United States and of Canada were the same in the defeat of Germany. Nevertheless, to almost completely strip Canada of armed forces was, to say the least, a gesture of supreme confidence in the friendship of our sister nation to the south. Of course, the British Navy is then all-powerful on the oceans of the world and under its protecting influence we had not the least concern about any major attack on our territory from overseas.

The progress of World War I brought the United States in as an ally, an ally whose potential strength turned the scales. I use the word 'potential' advisedly, because the total United States battle casualties were only of the same order of magnitude as our own, and these were distributed over a population some dozen times larger.

The United States emerged from World War I with