

in itself, is merely a fact; good neighbourhood is an achievement. Canadians and Americans have, of course, not always been good neighbours. In the early 19th century we even had some fighting, the result of which usually depends on which history books you read. For most of that century, I think it is true to say, Canadians, making up the smaller and weaker society, feared their powerful and exuberant neighbour. But thanks to common sense and decency on both sides, to generosity and vision by both peoples, good neighbourliness was achieved long ago, and has been maintained pretty consistently since. It is of first importance to keep it that way without forfeiting in any way our right - and our duty - to maintain and express our Canadian point of view on issues as they arise.

There are two kinds of good neighbourly relations, however, and only one should I think, be called easy or automatic. Take, for example, the situation of two farmers who, with their families, farm neighbouring sections. Their relations are excellent, and they are close friends. Each minds his own business and respects the other's. They often visit each other, and their children intermarry. They help each other when the occasion arises, and occasionally cooperate in such things as building a common fence between two fields. Problems are few, and easily settled.

Suppose, however, that these two neighbours decide that the situation called for common enterprises, such as developing a joint irrigation system, or setting up a school. This means that their relations become even closer. It does not mean a slackening in their friendship. On the contrary, it is precisely because they are friends that such co-operative enterprises are possible. But it does mean that they will have a great many new problems on which they must work out agreements, reconciling separate interests, compromising, harmonising, and talking things over to foresee and forestall difficulties or resentments. It does not necessarily mean rifts. But it does mean that they must now discuss together frankly a good many topics on which each could previously afford different and even divergent views.

Now that they are closer, such relations, far from being easy and automatic, call for more alert attention; for greater care and consideration, on both sides. As the two countries move into new situations, they can less than ever afford to take each other for granted; or to ignore each other's problems and the necessity for solving them, often in different ways. With our own Canadian institutions, our own constitutional, legal, and political forms, practices and traditions, we sometimes boast in this country of the fact that we are different from - distinct from (occasionally we interpret those words to mean superior to) our neighbour.

If this is so, it is increasingly important for us to recognize, not only the greater burdens borne by the United States, but also the fact that their governmental mechanism and method for dealing with them is as different from ours as is, say, that of France. The very similarities of our ways of life, however, make it difficult at times for us to appreciate these differences; for instance, that a Congress is not a Parliament, a President not a Governor General, and Washington not Ottawa.