

It could be added that Latin America has received a very large share of the total of export financing provided by the Canadian Government through the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. Some \$100 million of such credits have been extended to four Latin American countries in the past three years, notably for paper-mill equipment and related engineering services in Chile and for locomotives and rails in Mexico.

One of the most significant elements of the Canadian presence in Latin America is the number of Canadian missionaries in the area. There are now some 1,500 Canadian Catholic missionaries serving throughout Latin America. These include parish priests, members (both men and women) of teaching orders, nursing sisters, and social workers. This is a development of quite recent years - indeed, much of it over the last four or five years. The majority of the Catholic priests and nuns are French-speaking Canadians, although there are a number who are English-speaking.

I should also mention that the Canadian Protestant churches are also active in Latin America, notably the Baptists, who have been in Bolivia for some 60 years. Various evangelical churches run hospitals, schools and other institutions.

There is, naturally, a special affinity between French-speaking Canada and Latin America. We share the same broad Latin culture. The Province of Quebec, also, has a further link through its legal system which, like that throughout Latin America, is founded in Roman Law and is largely codified in accordance with the common model of the Code of Napoleon. The French-speaking Canadian can often, more readily than his Anglo-Saxon fellow citizen, learn the two great languages of Latin America, Spanish and Portuguese. These factors taken together constitute a most valuable asset for Canada in its dealings with Latin America of which we are making greater and greater use.

Increasing interest is being shown by Canadians in the numerous professional, scientific and other learned conferences of the Americas. Because this is an activity in the private sector, it is rather difficult to tabulate and measure. One thing is certain - whenever Canadians have gone to these non-official conferences of an inter-American character, they have been given a very warm welcome. I was interested to see a little item the other day to the effect that Canadian medical schools were participating in a Pan-American Federation of Medical Schools and at this moment are being represented at a meeting in Brazil by two deans of medical faculties, one French-speaking and one English-speaking.

I should hope that our universities, professions and intellectual groups would deliberately take a more active interest in the organizational and institutional life of our hemisphere as a whole. While governments can lead and can do much, a broad and firm public interest in an area like Latin America requires, to an even greater extent, active participation of Canadians in terms of their occupations and their cultural pursuits. There is a need for closer relations within the hemisphere on a people-to-people basis, and