

bloomers about Canada among American acquaintances.

There is, of course, a good deal of truth in this criticism. No doubt the great majority of Americans know little or nothing of our history, our culture, our public life and institutions. And this can lead to misunderstandings. But I can assure you from my own experience that American ignorance of Canada is diminishing at an astonishing rate. More and more of the people I meet in all parts of the United States have become aware of Canada. They may not know much about our politics or our art. But they do know that they have as a neighbour a nation of increasing importance to them. The familiarity of Americans with our recent material progress, and particularly the great development of our resources, is extraordinarily widespread and detailed. The best evidence of that is the large and steady flow of U.S. investment in Canada, particularly since the war. But the recent process has been more than the result of the shrewd businessman's study of investment opportunities. Increasingly there is an awareness of Canada's national and international position and importance. And everywhere the attitude of those one meets is favourable and friendly. In fact, at all levels one encounters expressions of admiration for our country in terms which are often embarrassing.

Nevertheless, although I believe that Canada is much better known and even understood south of the border than it was, say, ten or fifteen years ago, much remains to be done. But what concerns me for the moment is whether the boot may be shifting to the other foot. How well do we Canadians really know and understand the United States? It seems to me that this may be even more important. Do we always take the time and trouble necessary to understand American points of view and the reasons for them? Or are we content to assume, just because we live next door, that automatically we know what is in the minds of our neighbours?

Do not let me give the impression that I underestimate the importance in the relations between our two countries of the multitude of things we have in common with the Americans - I have touched on some, and there are many, many others, great and small. But I am suggesting that we Canadians are not wholly immune from the risk of making mistakes about these neighbours of ours just as other "foreigners" do. Indeed, I believe we sometimes do make such mistakes, to our mutual disadvantage - and just because we are so close together and seem to be so much alike.

Let me touch on one very important department of American life in which I find that Canadians tend often to misunderstand what is going on in the United States - the political scene. I doubt whether most Canadians have much real understanding of "the American system", of the actual workings of U.A. public institutions, - The Presidency itself, the Congress, the Supreme Court - the Constitution itself. These are very different indeed from our own arrangements both in principle and in practice. On the surface, of course, we are familiar with a good deal - the sights and sounds of the party conventions, for example, are as well known