

So far as I know, that was the first time the phrase "Good Neighbour" was used by one nation of another. What two countries could better have begun a good neighbour policy?

Military Co-operation during the Second War

Nearly nine years ago we began a new chapter in the history of international relationships, with the meeting of your President and our Prime Minister in Ogdensburg more than a year before Pearl Harbour when the nations of the British Commonwealth alone withstood the enemy. The outcome was uncertain. Without American aid the Axis powers might be soon attacking our shores. At the President's invitation Mr. King motored down from Ottawa and in the President's car these two old friends sat late into the night discussing the situation and what should be done to meet it.

The next day, after attending church, they continued the discussion and drafted what has since become known as the Ogdensburg Agreement. The agreement of little more than a hundred words established the Permanent Joint Board on Defence "to consider in the broad sense the defence of the north half of the Western Hemisphere". Characteristically the Board was set up by a press release. It was sealed, not with wax, but with the aspirations of two peoples, and it was ratified, not by formal resolutions, but by the common consent of a whole continent.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson, then Secretary of War, came up for part of the Ogdensburg meeting and recorded in his diary that he told the others:

"I felt that it was very possibly the turning point because it marked a major step in American co-operation."

Moreover, Canadian-American co-operation as established at Ogdensburg and developed at Hyde Park was subsequently repeated many times in the pattern of Allied organization which carried us to victory.

One of the first exercises in joint defence that took place was after you had entered the war and an expedition to Kiska was planned to remove the Japanese from that part of our continent. It was the first time that Americans and Canadians had joined together for their common defence. When the Canadian soldiers came to the boundary to enter Alaska it was found that there was no provision that seemed appropriate under your customs regulations whereby not only their personal effects but even their weapons could be entered free of duty. So, of course, the wires buzzed and some very ingenious official, who had a real sense of neighbourhood, as well as a very practical way of getting around difficulties, had your great Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, write a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury. It was an historic document. It read:

"As a result of informal conversations between an officer of the Department of State and an officer of the Treasury Department, I have been advised that your Department considers that the only way in which free entry can be accorded to these Canadian troops in Alaska is for them to be designated as distinguished foreign visitors by the Department of State.

"It gives me much pleasure to designate the Canadian forces who are now or may later be operating in Alaska in association with the armed forces of the United States as distinguished foreign visitors. These gallant Canadian forces are, I believe, the first foreign troops since Lafayette to stand beside our own armed forces in expelling the enemy from American soil."