

to recall that Harvard was the President's *Alma Mater*; and that it was at Harvard, on an occasion not dissimilar to that of this morning, I first had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Roosevelt, and of forming a friendship which, in years to come, was not to be without its associations with the public life of our respective countries.

*The Thames and the St. Lawrence*

May I turn now to the particular ceremony of this afternoon and its significance. There is always a satisfaction in seeing the completion of an important public undertaking. I should like to join with others present in extending heartiest congratulations to all who have had to do with the conception, construction, and completion of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.

In May of last year, while attending, in London, the Coronation of Their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth, I had the honour of being invited to open a new bridge over the Thames, at Chelsea. My thoughts at the time were naturally of that historic river whose rural beauty is a pleasure to all, and upon whose banks are famous cities, including Oxford and London. I did not forget that the waters of the Thames had witnessed great struggles for freedom which had brought the British race to a proud position in the world. Nor did I forget that these associations formed a part of the heritage of the British Commonwealth.

All of this comes back to my mind as I seek to speak of the significance of to-day's ceremony. It is not the Thames, it is the St. Lawrence that is in our thoughts to-day. The St. Lawrence, too, is not without its history, a history which may well be the pride of the peoples of this Continent. It, also, has its great natural beauty. Where in the whole wide world is there a more majestic approach to the interior of any land; more in the way of an ever changing loveliness on an unprecedented scale? The St. Lawrence, too, has witnessed cities, universities, and capitals rise into being on its banks. Its waters, like those of the Thames, have been the scene of many struggles which have contributed to a larger freedom.