

Europe, and then Canada's principal trade relations, outside of those with our immediate neighbour the United States, were mostly with Europe. Canadians, however, for a long time now have shared many interests with the countries on this side of the Pacific basin; and that is especially true of the people of our westernmost province, British Columbia - their trade and contacts with Asia have continued now for more than a century.

As you know, there has been a tremendous economic development in British Columbia during the past few years, and I have no doubt, as this growth proceeds and I think there is every reason to expect that it will proceed, trade between Western Canada and the countries of the East and the Far East will increase substantially. Recent developments in air travel between North America and the Orient have facilitated closer relations, and as a matter of fact, the Pacific Ocean instead of being a barrier to those relations affords an easy and economic way of transporting goods and commodities from one nation to the other. Then again Canadian missionaries and teachers have lived and worked in Japan for many years in the hopes of bringing something of benefit to this country. We have a substantial community of Canadians of Japanese ancestry who have maintained close connection with Japan over the last half century while at the same time contributing to the development of Canada.

The emergence of new independent nations in South and Southeast Asia in the last few years has introduced a new orientation into our outlook upon international affairs. Through the United Nations, we in Canada have become more acquainted with the problems of these new nations of the East, or new in their present form, and their struggle to find their place in a somewhat insecure world.

We have been even more intimately introduced to Asian problems through our fraternal associations with the independent Asian members of our Commonwealth of Nations: India, Pakistan, Ceylon. In developing our views on Asian problems we have the advantage, and it is an advantage, of the close consultation with them which is a feature of our Commonwealth relations. Each one of us is the absolute master of his own affairs, both domestic and foreign, but we do get together and talk things over in a frank manner and we do, I think, all of us, derive some benefit from those frank and friendly discussions. We have been further influenced by the extent to which our good friend and neighbour, the United States, has become interested in the problems of Asia in recent years.

What I have said is intended to show the increasing awareness on the part of Canadians generally of this part of the world and of our dependence upon this part of the world for our own welfare in the Western world: Asia's needs, Asia's aspirations, and Asia's friendship - and, Japanese needs, Japanese aspirations, and Japanese friendship, have become more and more important to us and we don't forget that Japan is Canada's closest Asian neighbour. We in Canada need to learn more about Japan, and are trying to learn more.

As a consequence of all this, we in Canada realize that we need to learn more about Japan and we shall.