
throughout the globe and our two countries are finally meeting one another in world markets. Naturally we often meet as competitors. But to continue to see each other as competitors and nothing more would be to focus too much on the immediate and to deprive ourselves of the great possibilities opened up by co-operation and association. It would be to cut off our nose to spite our face. Almost too blindly, science is drawing us to the threshold of a new industrial revolution. Like it or not, we are going to have to get used to seeing old habits fall away. The future of relations between us lies in the parallel development of our economies as we move into a new technological era. This process is already under way.

**Question of
choice**

We must pick up the pace. Time slips by ever more quickly and we are coming to a point where Canada must choose its path. There is the option of closer ties with Europe, to which we are drawn by so much tradition and by the achievements of the past decade, however modest they may be. Then there is the appeal of the Pacific horizon and the economic and industrial attractions we have found there. Finally, there is the temptation of North American continentalism, so strongly supported by geography and economic logic.

In fact, it is men and history who have refused to see our continent become a single nation or a single integrated economy, which would assuredly be the greatest, richest and most powerful economy in the world. But faced with the hard choices that will have to be made in the new era, men might have to change their thinking about this option for the future of their continent.

The Canadians of today have rejected it. That they should do so is obviously because of their history and national ideals. Also because this national feeling is based on the premise that Canadians are not only distinctly different from their American neighbours but also have something in common with their European cousins. Our determination to see our French heritage preserved and enriched is part of that self-image of ourselves and gives us a special link with the French-speaking world, notably France.

In speaking a moment ago of Canada's world view, I referred to the attraction of the Pacific countries and the seductive invitation of continentalism. I come back to that to point out that, for Canadians, our shared cultural and linguistic community with Europe is a strong pull in the other direction. Yet, despite the strength of this attraction, we must not exaggerate its effect. In particular, let us not count on language to do our business for us. Language in itself is not a vehicle of trade or of industrial and economic relations. If Canadians needed any proof that in the business world, a common culture is not enough to accomplish this function, we have but to compare the growth of our trading and industrial relations with Japan and Korea to our relatively meagre trade with France — close family connections notwithstanding.
