



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE BEST IS YET TO BE

Speech by Mr. George Drew, High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom, to the Canada Club of Lancashire, Manchester, England, on November 23, 1960.

... Canada is relatively young as a trading nation in modern terms, but in a large measure we were born of trade. The adventurers of the Hudson's Bay Company, the coureurs de bois, and the great Northern explorers opened a new and unknown continent in the search of trade. The search for profitable trade created settlements from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which, less than a hundred years ago, came together as one nation. We have continued to live by trade.

I wish to express my own conviction at the outset that, with our complementary economies, there is a greater opportunity than ever before to expand the trade between our two countries, far beyond anything we have yet envisaged, to the mutual advantage and increasing prosperity of all our people.

I might well have been tempted to choose as the title for my remarks today "What is Wrong with Trade Between Canada and Britain?". I have become increasingly concerned about newspaper reports which convey the impression that there is something very wrong in the trade relationship between our two countries. I must say I was somewhat startled when I read a report recently in "The Times" which attributed to a well-known manufacturer in this country the statement that "Last year Britain imported £250 million worth more goods from Canada than we exported to Canada". This is only one of several reports I might mention which convey the impression of an increasingly adverse trade balance between Canada and Britain. This has naturally led to the suggestion that steps must be taken to oppose restrictions which some people seem to think have been placed upon British sales to Canada by the Canadian Government.