

went on to set down their impressions. "I confess to know little about the Canadian people", one student said. "My general impressions are that the people are all Frenchmen or Mounted Police or trappers of some sort. My meagre knowledge comes from a few movies I have seen and a few books I have read." With some firmness another student wrote, "I think Canada would be far better off to adopt our form of government and break free from England." Another declared, "The people are very backward". After receiving that and other body blows, I confess I was rather discouraged. The only light among the gloom came from one student who with pleasant naivety wrote, "Due to the fact that my information and knowledge of Canada is limited, I feel that the class of people are intelligent, well-adjusted and pleasant-going citizens." I hope that this particular student never acquires so much of the wrong kind of knowledge about Canada as to dispel that impression!

This ignorance has not prevented Canadians and Americans getting along wonderfully well together. Our mutual relations have been - and rightly - lauded as an example of the way that free states conduct their relations with each other. That example still stands.

It would of course, be impossible when we are so close together, with so many and complex problems of contact and national interest not to have differences and difficulties; just as it would be unwise not to discuss these differences in a frank and friendly manner when such discussion is desirable. Discussion of such things without misunderstanding is one of the proofs, and one of the tests, of our good relationship. Our boast is that we have accepted on both sides the responsibility of settling whatever differences may arise without the use or threat of force or even unfair pressure. We have the right to disagree, as friends. We also have the obligation to resolve these disagreements, as friends, and with a minimum of fuss and disturbance. This has not always been easy in the past, and is not going to be always easy in the days ahead, but our friendship will, I know, stand the challenge of the trials and turmoil of our time.

Firm and sure though this friendship between our two countries is, it should not, however, be taken for granted. Friendships between countries, like friendships between individuals, must be kept in repair. Never before in the history of relations between the United States and Canada has it been more necessary to keep that principle in mind, since our relations have in recent years entered a new phase. They have become even closer than they were, and their character is changing.

The fundamental reason for the changes which are now taking place in relations between Canada and the United States is the fact that the United States has within a very few years become the greatest power in the world and has become the leader of all the countries which value freedom. This has come about so rapidly that it is hard to remember that only fifteen years ago there was a strong trend in the United States toward isolationism and neutrality, and that policies were put into effect not with the intent of exercising international leadership but of avoiding foreign entanglements. In the face of the grave threat under which we now live, everyone in Canada - everyone in the free world - must be profoundly grateful that the United States has risen to its new responsibilities with such courage and determination.