

"At this moment we are in daily expectation of a formidable Fenian invasion, unrepressed by the United States Government, and connived at by their subordinate officials."

Indeed, one could come down to more recent days within this century when the annals of the Canadian Parliament record speeches highly critical of the Alaska boundary award.

I mention these matters, not to drag up ancient sorrows but to suggest that we not seek remedies to present situations in solutions hallowed by old age rather than by utility.

What was the state of relations between Canada and the United States even twenty years ago today? In 1938 the United States was not particularly interested in world affairs. The Monroe Doctrine during more than a century had become interpreted by many people as a justification for isolation from the messy affairs of a decadent Europe. Canada, largely because of its Commonwealth connection, was more interested in what happened on other continents. But we too participated in such matters only to a small degree. Our External Affairs Department then consisted of a handful of dedicated officers with missions in fewer places throughout the world than I have fingers on my two hands. Furthermore, our military strength was slight and Canada was far removed from any battlefield of anticipated war. Perhaps a third reason was that the Canadian economy was still strongly biased toward agriculture. In consequence of this, our trade interests were largely confined to the well known triangle - sell to the United Kingdom, who sells to the United States, who sells manufactured products to Canada. A favourable balance with the UK and an unfavourable balance with the US worked out very nicely so long as the UK had US dollars in its pocket.

What then has happened to shatter the world of 1938? Many things, I suggest. Far too many for me even to enumerate, let alone deal with them in detail. But I shall seek to run over some of the more significant ones and ask you to picture, as I discuss each of these events and actions, how it has affected both the United States and Canada.

World War II had effects far beyond those of any other conflict recorded in history.

Out of the ruin of war emerged an international forum - the United Nations. It was not a world government, but it did provide a place in which there could be direct communication among representatives of many different countries and where attempts could be made to improve the