



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

SOME CANADIAN PROBLEMS AND PROJECTS

An address by Mr. H. Hume Wrong, Canadian Ambassador in the United States, to the Canadian Society of New York, January 30, 1948.

Canadians who are called upon to speak to audiences in the United States can always count on a friendly reception. This is a happy circumstance, and long may it continue. The Canadian Society of New York can certainly be relied upon to provide not only a friendly audience, but also an audience a great deal better informed about Canadian affairs than nearly any other in the United States. For, unfortunately, one cannot often count on audiences in this country knowing much about Canada, a circumstance which often imposes upon the speaker the need for, to him, tedious repetition of some elementary facts.

I want tonight to describe some of the current problems which are engaging the attention of the Canadian Government and people, even if I have little that is new to you to say about them, and also to outline some Canadian hopes and aims in the present distressful state of most of the world. The Canadian Society has long filled a useful role in spreading abroad understanding about the position of Canada. Canada is now in need of greater understanding in the United States.

In the preface to an admirable recent history of the relations between the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, a well-known historian explained that he felt himself forced to give Canada more attention than her relative importance to United States and Great Britain would ordinarily justify, because he could not count on much common knowledge about Canada. He went on: "Americans and Britons know next to nothing about Canada because they have usually been able to take her for granted without serious consequences to themselves". In this observation there is much truth. Now it is not always pleasant for anyone to be taken usually for granted, for that at times involves failure to consider one's feelings and one's interests. Because Canada does not often cause trouble, or become a source of dramatic headlines in the newspapers, or adopt policies which are resented in the United States, it may not be an exaggeration to say that the ordinary citizen of the United States knows more of the course of events in such far distant countries as Yugoslavia and Argentina than he knows about what goes on in the territory of his nearest neighbour.

The reverse of this is not true. The ordinary Canadian knows a good deal about what goes on in the United States. He reads it in his daily paper. This is natural and indeed unavoidable. With about 12½ million people in Canada and about 145 million people in the United States, it is obvious that what happens in the United States must be much more important to Canadians than what happens in Canada can ever be to Americans. The people of this country do not run much risk in taking Canada for granted, but nearly everything important that takes place here is of direct interest and concern to Canada.