

But it took many years to develop the understanding, the mutual trust and the confidence which characterize our relations today. They were, in many ways, prosaic years, but they were formative years, and, therefore, important years. The relationship between our respective peoples throughout that period was generally friendly though remote, correct but formal, and was based largely on personal contacts rather than on national understanding.

On our part, as Canadians, we felt perhaps a little superior, like the Scots of their southern neighbours, as we sent our well trained professional men in very considerable numbers down to the United States to take important positions. We were not too interested in the United States otherwise except that we were somewhat over-awed at the amazing scale and rapidity of that country's development. Yet throughout those long years, by what Carlyle called "the inevitability of gradualness", we did evolve understanding and appreciation of our American neighbour's great qualities.

Americans, on their side, in the early days regarded Canadians with somewhat easy tolerance, not being too well informed about us, perhaps, due to intensive pre-occupation in their own development and its attendant problems. In recent years, however, Americans have rapidly developed an amazing and widespread interest in all things Canadian. This has led, as we are all well aware, to many Americans and much American capital coming to Canada to participate in the great development of our resources, and to strengthen the community of interest which that brings.

You may think that reference to Canadian-United States relations during the long last half of the 19th century is irrelevant to the consideration of our joint defence effort of today. If so, I think you are wrong. Those were the years of getting acquainted - the years of developing ever closer association, the years during which the foundations of mutual understanding were laid, understanding without which there could be no confidence. And where there is no mutual confidence, there can be no enduring co-operation.

It is, of course, only in recent years that co-operation between Canada and the United States in matters of mutual defence has become necessary. That need arose suddenly and has been and continues to be steadily met.

The defence of this continent was not a factor in the First Great War. The fields of battle in Europe, in Africa and in Asia were far away. Powerful navies protected our coasts. The great oceans themselves formed a natural barrier to invasion. Never during the First Great War was any part of North America even remotely liable to attack.

In the Second Great War, however, the defence of North America quickly became a matter of major importance. Just as the English channel largely lost its effectiveness as a defensive moat for England with the development of large scale, long-range bombing, so the Atlantic and Pacific oceans shrank in relative size