

of the four original provinces, while to our south lay a virile, populated nation that had already achieved a goodly proportion of its manifest destiny and showed manifest signs of being capable of achieving much more.

Not only were the links between Nova Scotia and British Columbia very tenuous, but the confederation was only a few years old when it was plunged into an economic depression which lasted almost unrelieved for 20 years. These hard times resulted partly from external causes and partly from the accumulation of huge debts necessary to finance the vital rail link with British Columbia.....

As a Diamond Jubilee is an occasion for looking backwards, it is appropriate to look for some of the reasons for our survival as a nation. These reasons should help us to understand why we now have that key in our hands.

One of the reasons for our survival lies beyond the borders of Canada. It has been the attitude of our southern neighbour towards our development. The strong sense of destiny that developed in the United States after it had broken through the Appalachian barriers of the eastern seaboard produced a physical development that was without parallel in history. Yet, in spite of the fears of the Fathers of Confederation, the surge of nationalism that accompanied the swift westward progress of the Americans was of a different nature from those other brands of nationalism that have been responsible for so much strife and destruction elsewhere.

With the exception of a few boundary disputes which were settled without a struggle - though not always to Canadian liking - and a few occasions of vocal violence, American nationalism was a force that recognized and respected the territorial rights of the numerically weaker northern neighbour. Though the Americans have never entirely understood the more amiable arrangement by which we Canadians gained the right of self-government from London, they have sensed and respected our firm resolve to be ourselves. American nationalism has been tempered by the continuous interchange of peoples that has taken place between Canada and the United States since the end of the War of Independence, and is still taking place today to the advantage of both of our nations.

Economic factors have also contributed to our national growth. Only one year before Confederation, the reciprocal trade arrangement that had existed with the United States and had been so beneficial to the British North American provinces was ended.

With the loss of vital markets resulting from the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, the prospects of Canada following an independent economic course seemed to many very gloomy indeed. Indeed a few pessimists saw annexation to the United States as the only cure to the hardship that was sure to follow.

Fortunately the optimists far outnumbered the pessimists and the response to the challenge was a search for other markets and the establishment of new Canadian industries. The going was hard at first, and discouragements were many, but the efforts have been well rewarded.

We have only to look about us in this city to see what sort of accomplishments have been made in industry, and it is common knowledge that Canada is the fourth greatest