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cohesion between them, and to foster the economic development of a potentially rich productive country which was still under-developed and, except in the older eastern centres, largely a frontier for pioneers. Macdonald for fifteen years, and Laurier for fifteen years, devoted their energies mainly to this gigantic domestic task.

Alongside of the new Dominion of Canada lay the United States, older, more populated, richer, and more powerful. Canada had to live with this neighbour, and share the continent with it. Their interests interlocked. After periods of war, there was an era of peace; but problems of boundaries, commerce, and fishing rights persisted with irritating effects.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier illustrated this when he said in the House of Commons in 1909:

Look at the volume of business of an external character which has been transacted during the past year. We had the French treaty negotiated by us, of course with the concurrence and approval of the imperial authorities; we had another treaty dealing with the long pending question of the interpretation of the treaty of 1818 in relation to our Atlantic fisheries. . . Then we have had another treaty, also negotiated in Washington, with reference to the fisheries in the inland waters. We have another treaty to mark again the boundaries between Canada and the United States. . . Then, we have had another and most important treaty which is now engaging the attention of the American senate. . . that is, a treaty to settle in a friendly spirit all difficulties which may arise in the boundary waters between Canada and the United States. . .

Laurier continued: "This alone will show to the House that Canada has reached a position where foreign relations have assumed a very important character. . . We have now a population which cannot be less than six million and is probably more; our trade last year