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## CANADA AND PAN AMERICANISM

John Barrett Addresses the Young Men's Canadian Club of Montreal—Thinks We Should Be in It.

Following are summarized extracts from an address before the Young Men's Canadian Club of Montreal on April 12, by John Barrett, director-general of the Pan-American Union, the official international organization and league of the American republics (Washington, D. C.) and former United States minister to Argentina, Panama, and Colombia. In order to grasp clearly the vital meaning to Canada of Pan America and Pan Americanism, let us first understand the exact significance of these terms. "Pan America," as a term, means simply "All America," but we use the prefix "Pan" instead of "All" because the former is common to the Spanish and Portuguese as well as to the English language. "Pan Americanism" as a term correspondingly means "All Americanism." Defined, however, according to common usage and its political interpretation, Pan America means the twenty-one independent republics of the western hemisphere—the United States and its twenty sister Latin American republics reaching from Mexico to Cuba south to Argentina and Chile. Pan Americanism correspondingly means, in its common political interpretation, the co-operation of these twenty-one governments for their common good. While Canada is just as much a part of Pan America in a geographical sense and should be just as much a participant in the enjoyment of the principles and practices of Pan Americanism as the United States or Argentina, yet today its connection with both of these terms is only relative instead of actual and practical.

As, moreover, the Pan American Union represents organized Pan America and Pan Americanism, its history, scope and purpose should be well known to Canada. Defined in a sentence, the Pan American Union is the official international organization or league of the twenty-one independent American governments, existing by voluntary and not compulsory agreement of these governments; maintained by their joint contributions or quotas based upon their populations; controlled by a governing board or supreme council composed of the secretary of state of the United States and the Latin American diplomatic representatives in Washington.



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administered by a director-general elected by that board and, therefore, in every sense an international officer, who, in turn, is aided by a competent staff of international experts; and devoted to the development of commerce and intercourse, good understanding and friendship, and the preservation of peace among them.  
It was organized thirty years ago as the result of the first Pan American conference held in Washington attended by representative statesmen of all the American republics. It was continued and enlarged by three successive Pan American conferences until now it has become the most powerful and practical international organization in the world which looks to the material and moral good of its constituent nations and peoples. It is in no sense antagonistic to Europe or Asia, but a co-operative American movement for mutual American good.  
The Pan American Union is housed in a noble building in Washington, which in a sense is the capital of the western hemisphere, and has been described by a great French architect as "combining nobility of expression, practical usefulness, and beauty of architecture more than any other public building in the world."

Americas." In it a large staff of authorities on Pan American trade and every phase of Pan American relationship conduct a vast correspondence, prepare and publish a great variety of reports, receive innumerable callers, and edit and distribute a monthly bulletin in English, Spanish and Portuguese issues. Here is found an up-to-date library of 30,000 volumes covering every phase of Pan American progress; the newspapers and magazines of all Latin America; maps and atlases describing intimately every American country and section; a collection of 25,000 photographs, and a subject index of 150,000 cards.  
The most convincing proof of the usefulness of the Pan American Union as an international organization, and of its material benefit to the United States and the other countries is the record of the growth of Pan American trade under its influence. Since the Pan American Union was reorganized, nearly fourteen years ago, or during the period in which I have served as its executive officer and of which I can hence speak authoritatively, Pan American commerce has shown an extraordinary development from less than \$500,000,000 per annum to more than \$2,000,000,000, an increase far beyond the expectation of the believers in Pan Americanism and one which has confounded its critics.

Corollary to this is another most convincing evidence of the good work of the Pan American Union. Fifteen years ago, before this organization first began its new progressive career, Germany led the United States in the foreign trade of fifteen of the Latin American countries. Just before the war was going full speed ahead, the United States led in the trade of fifteen of the Latin American countries while Germany trailed behind with leadership in only five!

Although great credit is due to the departments and ministries of state and commerce of the United States and the American governments for the building up of Pan American trade, it is a fact admitted everywhere, in legislative, judicial, manufacturing, shipping and general commercial circles, that the Pan American Union as an international co-operative organization and league has done more, through the spread of reliable information, to promote Pan American commerce and intercourse than any other single official influence.  
The great point which I desire to bring home here today is that for the good of Canada and for the good of the rest of America there ought to be devised some way of making Canada an active member of the Pan American Union and thereby a practical beneficiary of its unlimited usefulness. I can think of no influence that would so help the building up of the commerce of Canada with all the rest of the western hemisphere, and would so benefit its material, moral, social, economic and general intercourse with the other American countries as would the membership of Canada in the Pan American Union. It would mean that every chamber of commerce and board of trade in Canada, every manufacturing, exporting and importing firm, every bank and financial institution, every shipping house, every newspaper and other publications, every university, college and public school, and in fact every citizen of Canada would have access to the service, facilities and assistance of the Pan American Union as an international Pan American bureau of information and an organization that covers every field of practical Pan American relationship. In fact I cannot see how Canada can ever realize the magnificent opportunity before her in the Pan American family of nations unless she shall become a member of this union. If anyone has the slightest doubt as to the possible usefulness of the Pan American Union to Canada, and the practical character of its scope and work, he should visit its offices in Washington or, at least, correspond with it for full information.  
While I am not in any sense authorized or inspired by the governing board of the Pan American Union, or by any of the constituent governments, to suggest that Canada should or might become a member of the Pan American Union or how this end should be accomplished in view of the present constitution of the union which limits membership to the independent republics of America, I am aware that there is a strong growing sentiment throughout the American countries that a way should be devised for inviting Canada to become a member of the union. Although there has been no official discussion recently by its governing board or by the constituent governments of the union of this possibility, there is little doubt in my mind that it will come up for consideration directly or indirectly at the fifth or next international conference of American states which will presently be called to meet in Santiago, Chile.  
To quiet misunderstanding of the Pan American Union, it should be emphasized that in no degree whatever does the United States dominate its control or policy. The Pan American and

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Latin-American influence is greater than or equal to that of the United States. Every other country of America has equal voting rights and equal say with the United States in the sessions of its governing board or supreme council. There is not the slightest hidden meaning in the Pan American Union to the effect that it is an instrument for greater United States influence on the western hemisphere but, on the other hand, it is a most powerful factor in giving every American country its rightful place in the Pan American family. Membership

of Canada in it would probably prove even more beneficial to Canada than such membership would be to the United States, and would put Canada correspondingly into far closer touch with Latin America than it would with the United States. In other words, it can not be said that selfishness would prompt the United States in favoring Canadian membership.  
In conclusion, it should be noted that while the Pan American Union is not technically and solely a league of peace, there is no question that its general

moral influence and the specific influence of its governing board or supreme council have been most powerful deterrents of warfare, and it is a fact that there has been no serious war between any two American countries since it was organized.  
Miss Agnes Flynn, of this city, after a most successful training, has been graduated from the school of the Central Street Hospital, Somerville (Mass.). At present Miss Flynn is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. Murphy at Hampton.

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