

planation in connection with the matter. We have found that the usual affairs of our people can only be known to, and managed by ourselves. This has perforce made us into a national organization. We have, as members of the historic League called the Empire, an Imperial patriotism also, but the two are usual thought of quite separately and dealt with to a large extent separately. It should not be hard for Americans to understand our love of independant existence, and of the hopes it offers of developing ideas and constructing institutions on new and better lines. If Canada can avert some of the evils of American public life while gratefully adopting its best lessons, the experience would be beneficial to both peoples. This national development may as well be regarded amicably and honorably, as it is by many thoughtful students of political life, such as ex-President Eliot of Harvard. Fate, then, having decreed, and most wisely, that the English-speaking population of North America should pursue its ideals in two national organizations in place of one, somewhat as it decreed that the thirteen colonies were not to merge their legislatures in one general parliament — it is not necessary to conclude that they should stand altogether apart.

The question now becomes: **What is the best means of maintaining a permanent good understanding between them?** I think it is a tie, and that such a tie is neither inconceivable nor impracticable. We have had sporadic Commissions for frontier delimitation, for deep water-ways, reciprocity, and fisheries; some imperfect concerted action for preserving Niagara Falls; a few customs and immigration understandings; a little comity of Courts; as well as the great treaties. It is not too much to say that scarcely any of these has been perfectly satisfactory. Chicago is drawing off St. Lawrence water into the Mississippi, the Erie Flats canals on the other hand are in the territory of Canada; the preservation of the Niagara Falls rests on little more than ill-concerted popular whim; warships are being prepared on the lakes (under the guise of training ships) in disregard of the Treaty of 1818; criminals postpone their extraditions for long periods; rejected immigrants slip across the border; a tariff war is constantly in action; powderam steals are mutually projected on the common rivers; fishermen invent one embroilment after another; and the wonder is that things have not gone vorse. Sporadic understandings then have been a failure. A general clearing up of outstanding questions is said to be now in process by means of ordinary diplomatic channels, but it is not founded on any settled principle or accepted understanding.

I have ventured to propose the permanent establishment of an annual general conference between the two nations, which might be known as "**THE AMERICANADIAN CONFERENCE**", for the regular and constant adjustment of the whole of the questions which arise. Whatever might be its form or composition (it could not be a legislative body, nor directly elective), it should have for basis a condition of good understanding and alliance; which should be considered so permanent and settled as to form a species of union. The two ought no longer to regard each other as foreign, but as kin. And as we Canadians, apart from our natural patriotism, are tied by every bond of fraternal loyalty and gratitude to our kinsmen of the British Empire, it would imply that, although hingeing on us, the understanding be, to that extent, extended to those kinsmen. I know that ques-