

of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill had been fought, embodied the principles of the Statute of Westminster of 1931, upon which the Commonwealth is now built. The ideas of the founders of this nation expressed in that Petition have in the process of time become the cornerstone of the Commonwealth.

As Nicholas Murray Butler said, some twenty-five years ago:

"It is one of the most astounding things in the history of government that these men off in this distant series of colonies, economically in their infancy, financially helpless and dependent, had the vision of organization which has come now to all the British peoples.... So it is in the history of our race. Ideas, how slowly they travel; arguments, how slowly they are apprehended; action, how slowly it follows upon conviction."

Being agreed on the essential unity of our two countries, I wish to refer to the mandatory need of continued care and devotion to the maintenance of good relations. Some fourteen months ago, speaking at Dartmouth College, I expressed the concern of many Canadians with respect to trade and economic relations. I underlined my views in these words: "I emphasize that the Government of Canada has as its duty and responsibility to consider Canadian interests first." I adopted as my own words those ascribed to Mr. Dulles: "The purpose of the State Department is to look after the interests of the United States", -- subject to the substitutions necessary to make them applicable to my country. I further stated, and this has been made abundantly clear: "It is not now, and will not be, anti-American."

Improved Relations

Many Canadians have concluded that there had developed an assumption that relations with Canada could be taken for granted, and that the flowering plants in the garden of United States-Canada relations required little or no nourishment or care.

Tonight, I feel reassured that beneficial changes have taken place in these relations since I spoke at Dartmouth fourteen months ago. The plants in the garden are being more carefully nurtured; they are being trained up and guided, not left to grow jungle-wild. The process is not complete and will never be, for as Robert Louis Stevenson once truly said, "the art of friendship is a capacity for continually repairing fences".