

Conversely, I am informed that there are more than one million persons of Canadian birth living in the United States.

In this connection I was interested to know that there are over 17,000 Canadian born persons here in Seattle, one of whom is your distinguished mayor.

By reason therefore of history, of common origins, common language and customs and similar complexes of population, Canada and the United States are very like in kind. These things have drawn us together, and even had they not, proximity would no doubt have dictated the wisdom of friendship.

Canada is a vast land — the largest country in the North American Continent, larger in area even than the United States — but most Canadians live in a relatively narrow strip of land adjacent to the 3000-mile boundary line. Indeed, ninety percent of the people of Canada live within 200 miles of the United States border.

In distant decades there have been some bitter disputes between us over specific sections of the boundary line. I need only mention the names San Juan Island, Behring Sea and the Alaska boundary to indicate what I mean. In all cases the differences were settled by diplomatic means although in some instances feelings ran high and negotiations were protracted and sharp, and some bitterness, now happily forgotten, was engendered.

Fortunately for the good relations of our two countries, a special technique was devised early in this century for solving boundary disputes and other problems in a sensible, amicable manner.

The International Joint Commission, consisting of three representatives of each country, was established in 1909. For nearly half a century now that commission has dealt with dozens of problems involving waters which form the boundary line, rivers which flow across the boundary, and other matters which have been referred to it. And it has solved nearly all those problems so effectively and so quietly that I suppose relatively few persons in either Canada or the United States know that such a useful agency exists or are aware of the great results which it has achieved.

In a host of other ways, too, the two countries work together to solve mutual problems great and small.

But I have time to make only passing reference to two or three specific fields in which bilateral collaboration has been of great mutual benefit.