

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Canada and the United States have been called the Siamese twins of North America, so intimately are they joined socially and economically; and so inseparable is their security.

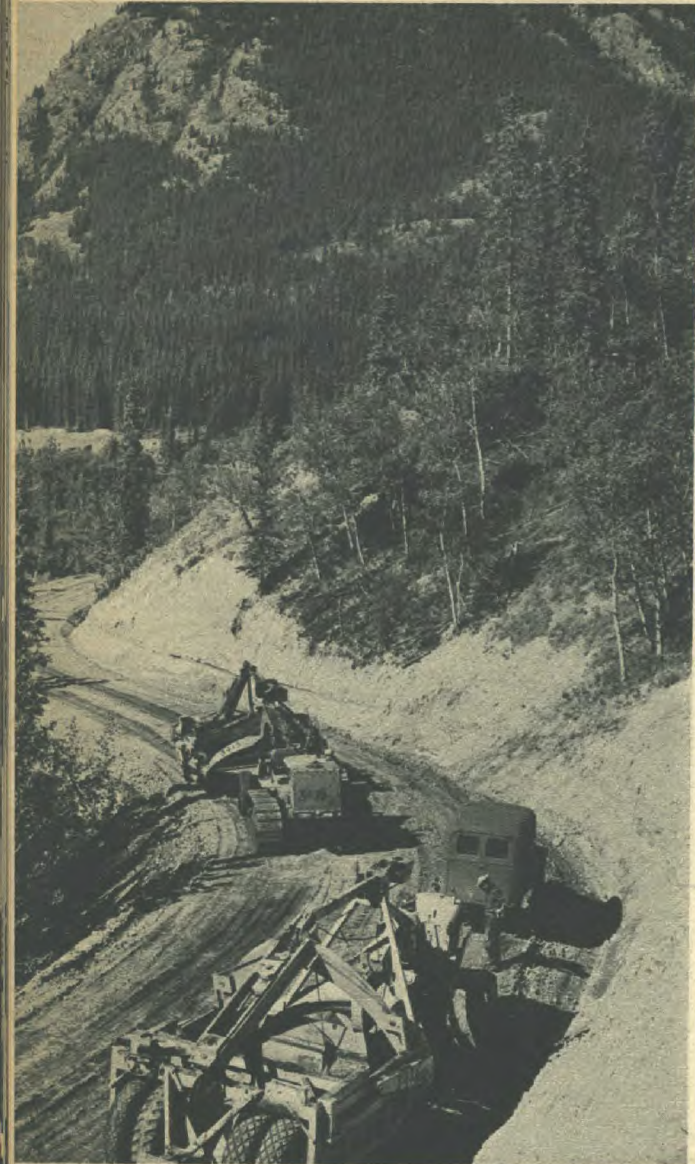
The fact that the 5,600 miles of boundary, including the Alaska boundary, separating their territories are undefended is a matter of frequent comment, but the simple fact is that to both countries the possibility of hostilities between them is unthinkable. In 130 years of unbroken peace the two countries have built up a tradition of friendship and co-operation which it would be inconceivable to break. The "unseen frontier of friendship" makes possible the undefended border.

A strong influence in the development of their friendly relations has been a sense of common origin. The great majority of the peoples of both countries are of western European stock. Many Canadians are descendants of former members of the American colonies and the feeling of kinship has been strengthened by the free movement of population back and forth across the border. It is estimated that in a single year the border is crossed at least 30,000,000 times by the citizens of both countries.

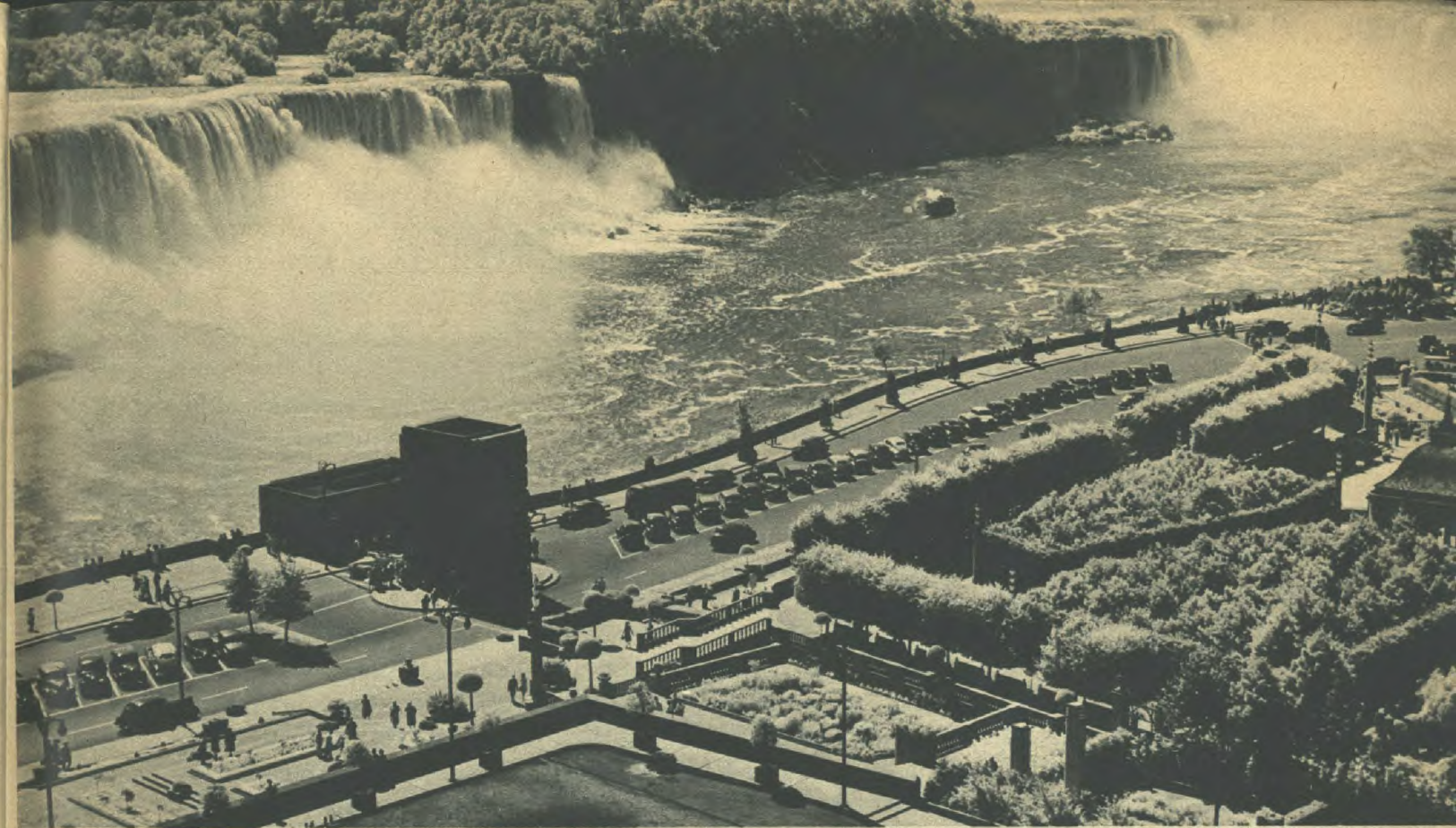
Their economic interests are as closely integrated as their social life. Canada is the United States' best customer, buying in recent years about one-seventh of that country's total exports. This amounts to more than 60 per cent (during the war years more than 75 per cent) of Canada's total imports. In turn, some Canadian industries, notably newsprint and metals, find their readiest market in the United States, which is the largest purchaser of Canadian exports. As regards both total trade and total investment, Canada's relations with the United States have in recent years been closer than with any other country.

Relations between them have not always been as cordial as they are to-day. Boundary issues aroused feeling on several occasions, and the fear of annexation was a strong influence in Canadian policy for many years after the United States' attempt, during

the war of 1812, to take over the northern colonies. In the process of settling down as neighbours some disagreements were inevitable; but gradually there grew up a tradition of adjusting them by negotiation and arbitration. Outstanding is the work of the International Joint Commission, a permanent body set up by the two governments in 1909, which has prevented or settled boundary and other disputes with remarkable success ever since.



Alaska Highway is 1,671 miles of engineering triumph.



Niagara Falls (American Falls at left, Canadian at right).

Official co-operation is only a small part of the extensive give and take. A large number of non-official boards and commissions have been formed by business men, educationists and others to deal with problems common to both countries. Canadian and American labour organizations, technical and scientific societies, service clubs, book clubs and other organizations are in many cases affiliated.

World War II brought still closer co-operation. Defence, the most immediate problem, was considered jointly even before the United States entered the war. The Ogdensburg Agreement, an informal accord reached by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada in August, 1940, provided for the immediate setting up of a *Permanent Joint Board on Defence* to "consider in the broad sense the defence of the north half of the western hemisphere". The use of the word "permanent" introduced a new note in the relations between the two countries.

The extent of military co-operation for the defence of North America under this Board is seen in such projects as the chain of airfields from Edmonton, Alberta, to Alaska, known as the Northwest Staging Route, the 1,500-mile Alaska Highway connecting them, the construction of further airfields in north-eastern Canada, and the establishment of weather stations and communications systems.

In April, 1941, the Hyde Park Agreement, arranged between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King, provided for the joint use of the productive facilities of both countries. Various joint committees were subsequently set up to advise on the most effective use of both countries' material resources. The close integration of the Canadian and United States war effort at every level has no parallel in history.

