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St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project

An address by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, delivered at the Annual Banquet of the Chamber of Commerce, Ogdensburg, N.Y., January 22, 1953.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to be invited to address the members of the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet. As I crossed the border at Prescott this evening I could not do otherwise but reflect on two matters that struck me with force.

The first is that we are good neighbours and that ours is a much crossed boundary. No other two countries in the world have the same relationship as we have; our relationship is on a different plane from that enjoyed by any other two countries.

Our boundary is crossed by more trade, more travel, more tourists, more money, more radio, more television, more trains, more cars, more newspapers, more symphony music, more hockey, more football, than any other two countries in the world.

In peace as in war we do the same things and frequently we do them together.

Secondly, we think alike. The fundamentals of national thought are the same for both your country and mine. Ours is a new nation in a world's old history. So is yours. We are not chained by tradition, nor have we fallen heir to the age old hates of Europe and Asia.

Your Calvin Coolidge once said "Whether one traces his Americanism back three centuries to the Mayflower or three years to the steerage, is not half so important as whether his Americanism is real or genuine. No matter on what various crafts we came here, we are all now in the same boat."

My subject is the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, a matter of direct concern to all of us here tonight. As you well know, the question of deepening the St. Lawrence is not a new one. It has been agitating public opinion for at least a century. During the last fifty years, it has been the subject of negotiations between Canada and the United States. These negotiations culminated in the signing of an Agreement between our two countries in 1941.

The boundary line between Canada and the United States follows the 45th parallel of latitude until it strikes the St. Lawrence River at the point where the boundary of the Province of Quebec meets the boundary of