

It is not because Canadians and Americans are basically different from the peoples of any other two neighbouring nations that we get along so well together. We are not more virtuous, nor do we have any special criteria which apply only in our dealings with each other. What is perhaps special, is the fact that we both recognize that differences are bound to arise between us, that such differences do not divide us, and that the best way to settle our problems is to sit down together and talk things over, without a lot of fuss and fanfare. Only a few weeks ago some of my colleagues and I in the Canadian Government had the pleasure of being hosts in Ottawa to members of the U.S. Government for a meeting of the Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs. Our deliberations were not protracted and they were not spectacular but this was not because of any lack of important matters on our agenda. We did have problems of significance to both countries to discuss but we did so in a spirit of complete frankness and cordiality, and as a result I am sure that each other's point of view is the better understood and respected. I would reiterate that we owe this remarkable degree of intimacy not to any innate and mystical kind of "we-were-made-for-each-other" sympathy, but rather to cold hard facts of life which we have learned, sometimes by bitter experience, in the process of establishing and maintaining two separate households in North America.

The pattern of co-operation which has been built up between Canada and the U.S. as separate international entities, is, I firmly believe, something which has been achieved rather than bestowed by a benign historic and geographical providence. It is a tribute to the spirit of mutual accommodation which we have developed that we do not remind ourselves more often than we do - and I refer to Americans as well as Canadians - of the fact that this experience has not always been harmonious. Unlike the Bourbons however, we have learned, and if not forgotten - the historians see to that - at least we have learned to overlook.

In achieving this degree of mutual understanding I am convinced that the universities of our two countries and the close bonds of co-operation which they have developed have played no small part. Over the years there has been a steady growth in the two-way traffic between Canadian and American universities. An ever increasing number of Canadian students, both graduates and undergraduates, are studying for at least a year and often longer on American campuses. For the academic year 1957-58 there were no less than 5300 Canadians in approximate numbers engaged in studies in this country, many of them able to do so through the generosity of your universities in not limiting scholarship assistance to students from the United States. This breadth of spirit on your part is surely a manifestation of the best traditions of the academic world and has too often been taken for granted and gone unacknowledged. And the situation is happily not unreciprocal; for the 1957-58 academic year there were in Canada between 1700 and 1800 students from the United States.