

appropriate agency to construct the United States share of the power works for this whole project to get under way. We are waiting for the Federal Power Commission to reach a decision on this matter. We hope that it will be soon, and we are disappointed that that decision has not already been reached.

As arrangements for this Canadian project approach completion, there has been renewed interest in the United States in participating in the construction, the operation and the control of the waterway. Our position, which has already been made public, is simply that we must get on with the entire development just as quickly as we can. The need for power has long been urgent. It must be met, and the St. Lawrence River is the last important source of low cost hydro-electric power available to serve this particular area. Once the arrangements for the development of this power have been completed, and only then, we can discuss whatever new proposal the United States may wish to make for participating in the Seaway. It has been made clear, however, that the discussion of any new proposal for sharing this task must not delay any longer the whole project.

Canada and the United States has solved many problems together in a spirit of good will and good neighbourliness, with faith in each other's intentions and purposes. Surely they will be able to solve this one, and soon.

I should like to turn for a moment ... if I may, to our relations with Latin America, which are growing in importance, both politically and commercially. It has been the policy of this Government to do everything it can to foster that growth and to strengthen our relations with this increasingly important part of the world. The importance and influence of the Latin American countries is evidenced not only by their growing trade but also by their growing influence in the world's councils, especially at the United Nations.

So far as trade is concerned, Latin America has become the third largest trading area for Canada, our total trade with it having risen from \$33 million in 1938 to well over \$500 million in 1952, almost equally divided between imports and exports. Although our trade with Latin America averages only about 6 per cent of our commerce with the world in general, it accounts for about one-quarter of our trade with all countries other than the United States and the United Kingdom. So one of the principal aims of Latin America and Canada in recent years in particular has been to increase trade in both directions.

We are especially glad ... to welcome back to the House our colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), who has recently made such a distinguished contribution toward strengthening our political and our commercial relationships with Latin America. From all accounts we have received, his mission was greeted with quite exceptional cordiality in the countries which it visited, and this gives real hope of fruitful results of the kind we are accustomed to securing from the Minister of Trade and Commerce. ...

... Now, I would like to say a few words about our relations with the Commonwealth. It is not easy, of course, to bring the Commonwealth neatly into any geographical tour since it is as scattered on the map as it is varied in its peoples. It remains one of the most important associations through which Canadian foreign policy is worked out collectively with our friends. It is an association deep-rooted in our history but sensitive to political evolution, as was pointed out so eloquently in this House the other day. Unlike the United Nations and unlike NATO, it has no formal treaty between its members, no formal machinery or firm commitments of any kind; but it is a source of