

An Americanadian Conference.

The second word in the title may not look so enigmatic after it is explained that it was coined, and used with acceptance, on a certain occasion to express the close relationship which exists in many of their interests and movements between the two peoples separated—or rather delimited—by the frontier line between Canada and the United States. The similarity of interests under consideration on that occasion was in municipal institutions; but the same interlacing process, founded on identity of language and origin, covers so nearly all the branches of their activity,— migrations to and fro, social intercourse, intermarriages, a vast mutual commerce, political and educational institutions as well as municipal, literature, journalism, religious thought, reform waves, and many others, that descriptive phrases are superfluous: the analogies are evident to all. It is possible to at once lay down the **PROPOSITION THAT THE GREATEST EXTERNAL CONCERN OF EACH OF THE TWO NATIONS — CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES — IS THE MAINTENANCE OF A PERMANENT GOOD UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OTHER.** I think a moment's thought will show even to the American who thinks his country too powerful to stand in such a position towards a people numbering only eight millions (at present), that the proposition is correct. The more he studies it, the more he will become convinced that it is true. Canada has only one neighbor. The United States have only two, and of the two their relations with Canada are very much the more extensive. Statisticians now recognize that the vast Canadian territory possesses at least two thirds as much natural resources as the United States and can support a correspondingly large population of desirable races; while economically speaking, the flow of new development in Canada is intimately associated with the streams of development in the States. When immigration ceased to find free farming land in the latter, it turned its forces towards the free lands to be found over the border. When American forests are found to be failing, the Canadian woods are looked to to fill the deficiency. Wheat, iron, fish, asbestos, and other products tell, and will increasingly tell, the same story. The rate of growth of population is now, and must increasingly be, far greater than that south of the line, for some generations. Ten millions will soon be the population of Canada, twenty is a figure within early reach; fifty may be safely hazarded before as many years elapse. Such numbers and resources alone make a neighbor worth counting with, not to mention other considerations, such as the very large trade per capita and the close relations of Lake and New Zealand ports and other centres with Canada. The dangers of a serious breach of good course patent. At one time there were those who looked to the adjustment of the relations between the two peoples by Annexation, but since the successful growth, during recent years, of the fascinating ideal of a distinct nationality in Canada, Annexation has become a dead issue. The nature of the now full-fledged national idea among the Canadian people is the thing which doubtless most requires ex-