

The Canadian population today numbers 16½ million. In geographical extent we are the second largest country in the world. In our soil is a vast storehouse of nature's bounty. What appeared some years ago to be gaps in Canada's natural endowment have been filled in over-flowing measure by the discovery in recent years of vast deposits of oil, natural gas and iron ore. We possess in abundance the five known sources of energy: water power, coal, oil, natural gas, uranium. We are a major world supplier of forest products and metals. Canada produces over 90 per cent of the world's supply of nickel. We are blessed with tremendous resources of copper, lead, zinc, asbestos, uranium, titanium and other much-sought metals. Nature has been good to us. The opportunity to develop these resources is a challenge to Canadians of this generation and will likewise be a challenge to generations yet unborn.

I would not have you think that we have no troubles. No land in this imperfect world could pass through Canada's experience of development without growing-pains. I have no intention of ignoring these problems or their causes. Indeed, I shall avail myself of the opportunity of speaking frankly of them tonight. I indicated earlier that in these remarks I would speak of Canada's economic relations with the United States. It is one of the blessings of the extraordinary and cordial relations which exist between Canada and the United States that we can speak to each other in the most candid terms, without endangering, not to say rupturing, good relations between us and our sense of mutual confidence. Opportunities of this kind are given only to those who are the best neighbours in the world.

Relations with United States

Respecting economic relations between Canada and the United States I do not wish to weary you with platitudes. Let me, however, set in perspective what I shall later say by declaring the recognition and appreciation by the Canadian people of the manner in which the United States has risen to the tests, the exactions, as well as the challenge of world leadership. The generosity of this nation in sustaining other nations in these post-war years is without parallel in history. I traversed free Europe in 1948. What I saw there left no room for doubt that Marshall Plan aid saved Western Europe.

We are your allies in NATO. Canadian forces in the Second World War were proud to serve under the supreme command of that great man who is today the President of this nation. Canadian forces served side by side with United States forces in Korea under a Supreme United Nations Commander who was an American. Canadian forces are today standing on guard side by side with the forces of the United States in Europe under the supreme command of the NATO Commander-in-Chief who is an American. Recently the new Canadian Government and the United States Administration took a major step