

standing, the new trade agreement with the United States. I shall not do more than refer to that achievement as one of the main objectives of our foreign policy, a definite contribution to stability and goodwill. Some people seem to imagine that foreign policy has to do only with war, and is carried on only with countries overseas. It is well to remember its main objective is peace, and its greatest concern is to have a good neighbour.

There is another phase of that relationship which was crystallized in a notable speech last summer. August, 1938, is as important in north American annals as September was in the annals of Europe. In that month, speaking in Kingston, the president of the United States declared:

Happily, you and we, in friendship and in entire understanding, can look clear-eyed at these possibilities, resolving to leave no pathway unexplored and no technique undeveloped which may, if our hopes are realized, contribute to the peace of the world. Even if those hopes are disappointed, we can assure each other that this hemisphere at least shall remain a strong citadel wherein civilization can flourish unimpaired.

The Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British empire. I give to you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire.

These significant words met with instant and appreciative response from press and public in Canada. As presenting what I believed to be the Canadian attitude, may I quote part of the remarks I made at Woodbridge shortly afterwards:

We know that these words of assurance are the words of a friendly people and neighbour. We are glad that our common affairs have been so managed, and our mutual confidence so established, that such words can be frankly spoken and received without reserve. We realize that there is here no thought of military alliances, which are not a part of the tradition of the people of the United States nor of our own. We recognize the president's words as fresh evidence of the special neighbourly relations which have grown up between Canada and the United States, and we are glad that we are valued as a neighbour . . .

The people of Canada deeply appreciate all that is implied by the president's visit. At the same time they know they have their own responsibilities for maintaining Canadian soil as a homeland for free men in the western hemisphere. They will recognize that there is no room to-day for shirking these responsibilities. Indeed, the times being what they are, they will be quick to see that the assurance given by the president, has, if anything, increased rather than lessened our responsibilities.

We, too, have our obligations as a good friendly neighbour, and one of them is to see that, at our own instance, our country is made as immune from attack or possible invasion as we can reasonably be expected to make it, and that, should the occasion ever arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way, either by land, sea or air to the United States, across Canadian territory.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

What I should like particularly to emphasize is that these closer and more responsible relations with the United States have not in any way lessened the intimacy of our relations with the United Kingdom. On the contrary, this development has been paralleled by a clearer understanding by those two great countries of the ideals and interests they share together. This has found notable illustration in the paralleling of a Canada-United States trade agreement by a United Kingdom-United States agreement. There has been not merely a north American, there has been a growing north Atlantic understanding, though inevitably one involving less definite and crystallized relations and obligations. In this we in Canada have played some part; from it we have certainly derived great benefit. It is not a movement that can be hurried. It is a situation where it is for each country to decide upon its own interest, in the long run, as well as in the immediate phases.

This would appear to be an appropriate place to say a word as to Canada's relations with the countries of south America and the other members of the Pan-American Union.

In these times of lessening distances, between continents as well as countries, there is a larger America in which Canadians are becoming increasingly interested. During recent months it was in fact suggested in many quarters that Canada should be represented at the eighth international conference of American states, held in Lima, Peru, in December. I can assure the house that the government shares the view of the importance of our relations with the score of other nations which have become established in this western hemisphere. On geographical grounds alone, we could not be uninterested in developments affecting their welfare and security. We realize that in many cases these peoples are facing problems similar to those that Canadians have to meet, and that the solutions they have found, or are striving for, have significance for us. In the economic field, our trade relations are important and are capable of extensive increase.

So far as the specific suggestion of participation in the Lima conference is concerned, I may recall that we are not a member of the Pan-American union, and consequently could not have been invited to attend, since in accordance with established rules, the president of Peru sent invitations only to members of the union. Moreover, as hon. members are aware, Canada could not become a member of the Pan-American union unless and until the constitution of that body was altered, since at present its membership is restricted to "American republics." It was, however, sug-