REFERENCE PAPERS

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WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD, OTTAWA

No. 17

November 20, 1943

CANADA-UNITED STATES CO-OPERATION

In an exchange of notes on post-war reconstruction, November 30, 1942, the governments of Canada . and the United States proposed to "furnish to the world concrete evidence of the ways in which two neighbouring countries that have a long experience of friendly relations and a high degree of economic interdependence, and that share the conviction that such reciprocally beneficial relations must form part of a general system, may promote by agreed action their mutual interests to the benefit of themselves and other countries. The two governments, "are prepared to co-operate in formulating a program of agreed action, open to participation by all other countries of like mind, directed to the expansion, by appropriate international and domestic measures, of production, employment, and the exchange and consumption of goods, which are the material foundations of the liberty and welfare of all peoples; to the elimination of all forms of discriminatory treatment in international commerce, and to the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers ... ".

Before post-war plans can be put into effect, however, the war must be won. To that end, in the fields of defence, economics and war production, Canada and the United States have joined forces for the duration through the following committees:

Permanent Joint Board on Defence

August, 1940.

Materials Co-ordinating Committee

May, 1941.

Joint Economic Committees

June, 1941.

Joint War Production Committee

November, 1941.

Joint Agricultural Committee

March, 1943.

Joint War Aid Committee

August, 1943.

Canada is also represented, along with the United States and the United Kingdom on:

Combined Production and Resources Board.

Combined Food Board.

Public recognition of the interdependence of the two countries was made by President Roosevelt in a speech on the occasion of the opening of the Thousand Islands Bridge at Ivy Lee on August 18, 1938. The President of the United States said:

"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."

Prime Minister King of Canada replied at Woodbridge, Ontario, on August 20, 1938:

"We, too, have our obligations as a good friendly neighbor, 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

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950, MG 26 J 4, Volume 376, pages C260029-C260782