

the spectacle of two peoples living in amity side by side for a distance of four thousand miles along a line which is hardly visible in many quarters, with no cannon, no guns frowning across it, with no fortresses on either side, with no armament one against another, but living in harmony and mutual confidence, and with no other rivalry than generous emulation in the arts of peace.' To the Canadian people I would say that if it is possible for us to maintain such relations between these two growing nations, Canada will have rendered to Old England a service unequalled in its present effect and still more in its far-reaching consequences."

Surely to-day we may say that splendid dream is far on the way to realization. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the Canadian frontier line stretches for three thousand eight hundred and forty miles and its strength lies not in armaments, Holy Alliances or Leagues of Peace, but in Canada's trust in God and in the honor and good faith of its great neighbor. A cynic might say that this long line remains without fortifications on either side because much of it is geographically incapable of effective military defense. But that would be a very superficial contention. When the Old World peoples plan a readjustment of international boundaries the first thing done is to seek out what is called a strategical frontier. In the New World the simplicity of a unit of latitude has sufficed. From the Lake-of-the-Woods to the Pacific the forty-ninth parallel is good enough for us, and I doubt not, if circumstances had permitted, the Equator itself would have been pressed into service and made to serve as an American frontier line; and why this difference between the Old World and the New? The only answer is that strategic frontiers are unnecessary where good faith and mutual trust prevail.

At the same time and at this moment, I cannot but remember that there is another people that put its whole trust in a treaty, and that that trust was betrayed, when Germany struck her foul blow and violated the frontier of Belgium. And yet, on the other hand, note—and it is very relevant to this discussion—that Great Britain was the first of the neutral powers to enter the war, and that she did so for the sake of that same treaty. If England, and the four Dominions of Canada—Australia, South Africa and New Zealand—are at war today, and have staked their lives on the issue, it is primarily because they are minded to be faithful to Belgium and true to the treaty which Great Britain has signed.

A friend who heard of my coming here observed cynically: "So many vessels have been driven through that century old agreement that it is now but a thing of shreds and patches. Over 8,000 tons of shipping (war vessels) and near 2,000 naval