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to recall that Harvard was the President's *Alma Mater*; and that it was at Harvard, on an occasion not dissimilar to that of this morning, I first had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Roosevelt, and of forming a friendship which, in years to come, was not to be without its associations with the public life of our respective countries.

*The Thames and the St. Lawrence*

May I turn now to the particular ceremony of this afternoon and its significance. There is always a satisfaction in seeing the completion of an important public undertaking. I should like to join with others present in extending heartiest congratulations to all who have had to do with the conception, construction, and completion of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.

In May of last year, while attending, in London, the Coronation of Their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth, I had the honour of being invited to open a new bridge over the Thames, at Chelsea. My thoughts at the time were naturally of that historic river whose rural beauty is a pleasure to all, and upon whose banks are famous cities, including Oxford and London. I did not forget that the waters of the Thames had witnessed great struggles for freedom which had brought the British race to a proud position in the world. Nor did I forget that these associations formed a part of the heritage of the British Commonwealth.

All of this comes back to my mind as I seek to speak of the significance of to-day's ceremony. It is not the Thames, it is the St. Lawrence that is in our thoughts to-day. The St. Lawrence, too, is not without its history, a history which may well be the pride of the peoples of this Continent. It, also, has its great natural beauty. Where in the whole wide world is there a more majestic approach to the interior of any land; more in the way of an ever changing loveliness on an unprecedented scale? The St. Lawrence, too, has witnessed cities, universities, and capitals rise into being on its banks. Its waters, like those of the Thames, have been the scene of many struggles which have contributed to a larger freedom.

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*Symbols of national unity and international amity*

So much for similarities which are not without their significance. There are differences, however, which are of even greater significance to the world to-day. The Thames, from its source to the sea, is within the confines of a single State. Its waters are national in character. The waters of the St. Lawrence, in considerable part, are international waters. They serve to divide, as well as to unite. The possibilities of friction between the two countries are not lessened by the fact that their boundary, in part, is a vast inland waterway which stretches a thousand miles and more from the interior of the continent to the sea. Over the greater part of that distance rivers and lakes constitute the international frontier between Canada and the United States.

The bridge at Chelsea serves to emphasize and enhance the inheritance of commerce and culture shared by those who dwell on either bank of the Thames—a single people in one country. This Thousand Islands Bridge serves to emphasize and, we cannot doubt, will enhance through the years, the inheritance of commerce and culture shared by the peoples on either bank of the St. Lawrence—not one people, but two. The bridge at Chelsea stands as a symbol of national unity; this bridge is a symbol of international amity. It constitutes yet another of the many bonds which join two peoples who rival one another, not in enmities or in armaments, but in devotion to the ways of peace and the spirit of conciliation. Upon a bridge, itself a symbol of international friendship and good-will, we are celebrating once again a century and more of peace between the United States and Canada. When we reflect upon the disputed frontiers which threaten peace in other quarters of the globe, we cannot but feel that the ceremony in which we are participating has in it something of significance to the world.

*A common background: an insufficient guarantee of peace*

It may be thought that we owe our achievement to a common background; or that it is due to Chance that our frontiers differ so greatly from the frontiers of states on other continents. It is true