

This may all sound like idle boasting for a Saturday afternoon, though I prefer to call it educational information on a very interesting subject. All I want to do is to prove that we are no mean country - in any sense of the word, I hope - but one in a position to play a worthy part in the life and future of the Americas.

What part? We can, I think, make a contribution to peace and prosperity in this part of the world. We are in a position to assist in keeping the peace and preventing aggression by providing our quota of security forces under the United Nations Charter. In our own interest, and I hope in the general interest as well, we are also anxious and able to develop and increase our trade and economic relationships, not only with the United States, but with all our Latin American friends. For Canadians who maintain their high standard of living by foreign trade, it is of the greatest importance to extend that trade with an area of the world which has the promise, as possibly no other area of the world now has, of economic stability and growth and progress.

Man, however, does not live by bread alone and so Canadians are also anxious to widen and deepen their cultural relationships with all their neighbours to the South. In this connection, do not think of us as merely an extension northward of the United States or a projection westward of the United Kingdom. We like to think, of course, that we combine the best features of the Anglo-Saxon culture of both those countries!, but we are not merely another Anglo-Saxon State. We are a nation of many races but we have two main cultures, two official languages and two traditions, French, and (what we call for lack of a better word) English. We do not wish to merge those two strains in Canada, so they would lose their separate identities, for there is richness and strength in diversity. But we do live together in a friendly and equal national partnership. It may be that this partnership of the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon in Canada has a meaning for the whole Western Hemisphere.

You may think from the pages of the more sensational press that we in Canada spend our time these days looking expectantly and somewhat anxiously over the Northern ice. I can assure you we are looking south as well. In fact, we are looking in all directions. Canada, by its history, its experience and its nature, is not likely to become too preoccupied with any one view of its international relations. For one thing, though independent, we cherish our membership in an association of nations which has proved its value and its durability - the British Commonwealth of Nations. That membership, because it is based solidly on freedom, is not any longer a barrier to our participation in Pan-American institutions and activities. But it is also a reason why we are not likely to become isolationist even in a hemispheric sense. It has driven home to us the world-wide character of our interests and the continuity of our history and traditions. The grim fact that Canada 100,000 war dead lie in Flanders Fields and not in the Saskatchewan prairies has shown that isolation is, for us, an impossible delusion.

This international line in Canada has reflected itself in our almost passionate support of the United Nations and all that it might accomplish if it is given a chance. Within that world association, and within the terms of its Charter, there is, of course, room for regional arrangements, but it would not make for peace or progress if those regional groupings obscured the essential truth that peaceful co-operation must be universal. There can be no isolation even on a hemisphere basis. Nor can there even be security on a hemisphere basis. It is now one world, and those who would divide it by "curtains" or barriers of any kind, are trifling with the very existence of peace. All those countries in every part of the world who believe in democratic freedom and the rule of law must stand together. The basic divisions today are not geographical. They are in the minds of men. I recall reading of a statesman who, angered by the competing claims of Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism at an international meeting many years ago, impatiently remarked, "Damn the Pans". Well, no one, I hope, can take any exception to "Pan-democracy" or within the larger grouping, "Pan-Americanism".