

any surviving ill-will such a measure of solid good-will as should bridge succeeding years. By the Rush-Bagot Agreement the total armament on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, as well as Lake Champlain, was not to exceed six armed vessels, weighing not more than one hundred tons, and mounting one eighteen-pounder apiece.

On the first of this month I had the honour of re-opening, at Kingston, the large fort which has recently been restored. Its name is Fort Henry. It, too, owed much of its size and strength to the War of 1812 and to fears of possible future invasion of Canada by her powerful neighbour. Fort Henry has been reconstructed to attract, not to repel, possible invasions from the United States.

The Rush-Bagot Agreement was a self-denying ordinance. As such it provided a means of escape from competitive arming. It was limited in its application to the St. Lawrence and the Lakes. In fact, it served to end all armaments on an international frontier extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. This significant document has served as the most effective instrument in promoting, between our neighbouring countries, an enduring peace.

*The International Joint Commission: a crowning achievement*

The decision never to arm against each other was taken, as I have indicated, over a century ago. In our own time, we have crowned that decision by the construction of other bridges of international friendship and understanding. By far the most important of them is the International Joint Commission. It was created to adjudicate all questions of difference arising along our four thousand miles of frontier. In the quarter of a century of its existence, by substituting investigation for dictation, and conciliation for coercion, in the adjustment of international disputes, the Commission has solved many questions likely to lead to serious controversy. This bridge of peace has been the more significant in that while countries on the continents of Europe and Asia have been increasing their frontier armaments, the United States and Canada have settled all their boundary differences by the method and processes of reasoned discussion.