

Chamber's Music

Canada has been a country of great potential for at least a couple of hundred years. It has had vast

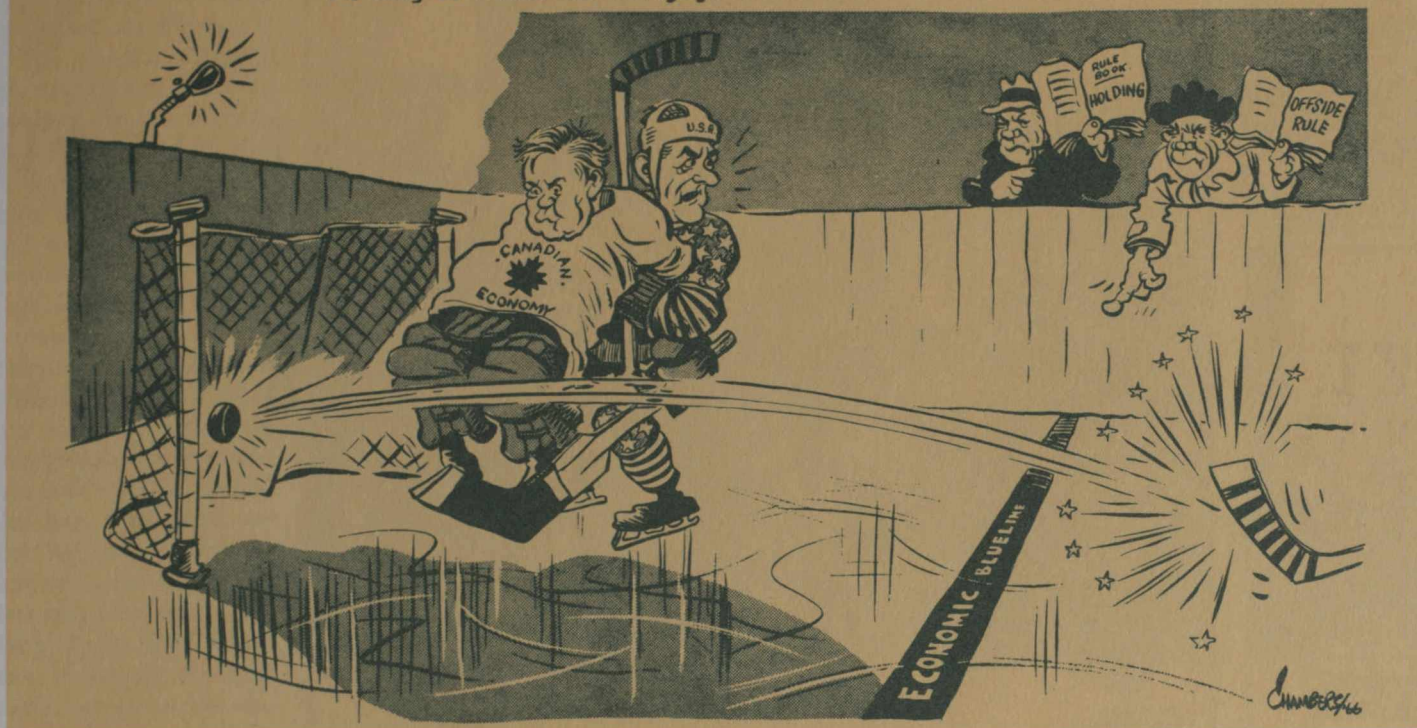
lands, marvelous natural resources and relatively few people. It has always attracted investors from abroad—once mostly from Great Britain, later from the US. (In 1900 eighty-five per cent of external investment came from the UK; by 1954, eighty per cent came from the US.)

Investors came along with the investments. Van

Horne, the builder of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and C. D. Howe, cabinet minister under both King and St. Laurent, were both American born. The immigrant tycoons were greeted with mixed feelings, and Mr. Howe managed to articulate both sides of the question. On one occasion he noted that "had it not been for the enterprise and capital of the United

States, our development would have been slower, and some of the spectacular projects about which we are so rightly proud, since they are Canadian projects, would still be far in the future." On another, he pointed out that "anyone who does business in Canada should reckon with the . . . normal feeling of nationalism which is present in Canada, just as it is in the United States." The second observation would prove more potent than the first. The control of great chunks of basic industries such as oil and mineral production by American corporations inspired widespread concern that Canadian sovereignty was being impinged upon. Bob Chambers, the dean of Canadian cartoonists, who recently retired after working fifty years on Halifax newspapers, summed up the view that the economies of the two countries might be more arm-in-arm than was altogether desirable.

"As long as I hold the mortgage on the rink I'll write the rules!"



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