

to over 165 million. Their gross national product, some \$60 billion in 1931, came close to \$400 billion in 1955.

But - as in our own country - still more significant changes have taken place in the American scene - changes which cannot be measured by statistics.

You will all remember how Americans used to be blamed for failing to shoulder their just share of international responsibility. You will recall some of the familiar charges - heard in Canada as well as abroad: the United States had scuppered the League her own President had founded; the United States was not behaving responsibly in her international financial dealings; the Americans couldn't manage their own domestic economy and were dragging the rest of the free enterprise system down with them.

Whatever validity there may have been in such criticisms twenty-five years ago, surely they have little relevance today. Consider the change wrought in less than a generation. The United States has had thrust upon her a degree of world responsibility that is probably without parallel in history. The manner in which the American people have accepted this heavy load should command the respect and gratitude of free men everywhere - and perhaps of Canadians most of all. For it is particularly fitting - and somewhat sobering too - for Canadians to remind themselves of what the free world owes to their giant neighbour.

It was the vast material and manpower resources of the United States, poured unstintingly into the great hopper of the Alliance, that finally turned back the forces of aggression in World War II. It was American money and goods - over \$30 billions worth, through the Marshall Plan - that made possible the quick and impressive recovery of the shattered economies of Western Europe. Without American support and enthusiasm the United Nations - with all its weaknesses, the embodiment of mankind's best hopes for peace - might never have been born. It was the decision of the United States to retain substantial forces in Europe after the fighting was over that choked off the threat of new aggression. It was the United States participation in NATO that helped to consolidate the resources of the Atlantic Community, into the main bulwark of peace in Europe. It was the United States, with the moral backing and material support of other U.N. members, that bore the brunt in checking Communist aggression in the Far East. And now, throughout most of the free world, the United States is powerfully committed and American forces and influence are deployed for the defence of freedom around the globe.