

Mr. Mackenzie King's announcement of the decision to appoint ministers to certain South American countries did not contain any suggestion that Canada was turning towards the Pan-American Union, but it did indicate that Canada could no longer act as though it existed in a different world from the Latin-American republics.

Latin America was of importance as a region in which Canadian capital was invested in the fields of public utilities, oil, banking and insurance to the amount of approximately \$750 millions. Such a corporation as Brazilian Traction, popularly known as "Light", the largest single economic enterprise in Brazil, was a Canadian company, with its head office in Toronto and one-third of its stock held by Canadians. In Mexico City, the Tramways were owned by a company also located in Toronto, although the Canadian interest was almost nominal. The Mexico Light and Power Company and all the major utilities of the city of Montērey were also of Canadian ownership. The Royal Bank of Canada was firmly established in Buenos Aires, and the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada had branches in Argentina and several other South American countries. In Peru and Columbia the International Petroleum Company (I.P.C.) was a subsidiary of the Imperial Oil of Canada.

On August 6, 1940, Mr. Howard Green, M.P., had asked if consideration had been given to setting up legations in any of the South American countries, suggesting the advisability of having representation in Brazil and Argentina. Mr. Mackenzie King replied: "Yes. The government has been considering the advisability of