

Twelve years ago the President of the University of Maine, Dr. Hauck, made a test survey of the knowledge of Canada among students in the United States. I quote from that survey:

"About 1200 high school seniors in the United States and about the same number in Canada took this test. The ignorance shown by the American students was appalling. For example, only one in five knew that Ottawa was the capital of the Dominion, or one in eight, the name of its Prime Minister. Even more disappointing was the fact that 33 per cent of the Americans taking the test said that Canada was 'a possession of Great Britain', 'ruled by Great Britain', or 'owned by the British'. The following remarks are typical of hundreds found in compositions which were written to supplement the test.

"Canada should have its independence from Great Britain. She has enough population to protect herself. She has large exports and can import what she needs from us. Let her have her independence."

"The government is not very liberal, nor have the British subjects the right of free speech, freedom of press, nor religious freedom."

"Canada is no country. It is just a province of England. England should give her more freedom."

"We should purchase Canada from England."

One student produced this startling statement which, however, I do not put forward as typical:

"I always thought until this year that Canadians were a fierce warlike people - somewhat like savages and then I discovered that Canadians are civilized and have a good government."

Questions were also asked Canadian students about the United States. Their answers, as might be expected, showed greater knowledge, but their appreciation of United States civilization was, in spots, a trifle distorted.

The following quotations are typical:

"The United States is a hot-bed of hustling, flag-waving, gum-chewing men and women whose dignity is conspicuous by its absence."

"The crime in the United States is astounding. Weapons are easy to obtain and anybody out of a job joins a gang and becomes a gangster. The people have much too high an opinion of themselves and do too much talking."

It is, however, not enough to know about other countries. It is equally important to know about other ideologies, other systems of government, other ways of life than our own. It is particularly important at this time, for instance, to appreciate the essential difference between totalitarian communism and free democracy. The first, which is in some ways as reactionary as feudalism and as old as sin, should not merely be damned: it should be understood. Unless we do know what it