

trade, and where the Atlantic fog has left at least a little trace in English and Scots throats. Or you might move westward to the great industrial expansion in and about Toronto; or further west to the prairies; or to British Columbia, with which many of you, I imagine, are better acquainted. In these journeyings, you would always be aware of being in Canada, but you would also be aware of moving through very different regions in terms of race, geography and climate. To fuse these regions together into a strong and united country has required high qualities of statesmanship from Canadian political leaders.

Not that the work of the Fathers of our Confederation and their successors has always been to oppose the pull of natural forces. Indeed, the shape of Canada as a nation owes a great deal to the natural thrust into the heart of the continent of the St. Lawrence River system and to a transportation network which was based on that axis and which drove it further west. But the fact remains that many of the regions of Canada are geographical -- and economic -- projections of similar regions in the United States. These regions would not now form integral parts of a strong and separate Canada had it not been for the determination and courage of nation builders who were working to realize a conscious vision. Long ago a decision was taken in Canada that, in spite of our nearness and close friendship with the United States, we would be a separate country. It may be taken for granted that that decision will never be reversed.

While the strength and influence of the United States have been growing enormously, we Canadians have watched with admiration. And our admiration of your unrivalled progress has, I think, been untainted by either envy or misgiving. For we feel that we know you, as no other outsiders do; and we are convinced of the essential beneficence of your power and of the essential magnanimity of your objectives. But, at the same time, we have had a growing sense of our own identity as Canadians. A young man never fully knows who he is until he discovers what he can do. So it has been with Canada as a nation. Our sense of identity has been fostered by what seem to us to be not inconsiderable achievements. It may seem strange that a nation should owe much of its sense of itself to its efforts in war. But virtues and capacities do bud strangely from that terrible tree. And it is a fact that the growth of Canadian nationhood was accelerated by Canada's participation in two world wars. It was the Canadian Corps which broke through the German lines on the 8th of August, 1918, on what Ludendorf called "the black day" for the German Army. A generation later, on a much larger scale, Canadian troops contributed to the victories at Caen, Cassino, and Falaise; ships of the Royal Canadian Navy had a major share in keeping the sea lanes open across the Atlantic; and squadrons of the Royal Canadian Air Force fought, from the Battle of Britain on, in many of the major engagements of the Second World War. Our part in those dire events not only gave us a pride in what we could do; it also brought more closely together Canadians from all parts of the country.

Testimony to the value and importance of Canada's peacetime enterprise and success has been amply provided by the large sums which American investors have been prepared to send north across the border. Since the end of the war United States investment in Canada has amounted to more than \$3,000 million. This flow of United States capital has greatly quickened the pace of Canada's economic development.