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### CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

In a still troubled world, Canadian-United States relations are truly unique. The boundary between these two sovereign states which share the American continent north of the Rio Grande--the longest unarmed frontier in existence--is crossed by more trade, tourists, products, publications, people and goodwill than any other in the world. Total trade during 1946 approximated \$2,250 million - a world record. The number of annual border crossings by citizens of both countries is estimated at 30 million.

Between no two other countries is friendship more soundly rooted in mutual respect and supported by efficient inter-government machinery for the solution of mutual problems. It is a friendship between peoples who read many of the same publications, cherish many of the same ideals, share the same high standards of living and feel equally at home in either country. Business organizations, labor unions, service clubs, fraternal societies, education, entertainment and sports display a marked similarity in Canada and the United States.

Without these fundamental bonds, the inevitable political and economic problems that arose from a common boundary might well have imposed a more lasting strain upon good relations--as they have in other parts of the world. The Canadian-American relationship is a concrete illustration of the fact that cooperation between a country with a large population and one whose population is much smaller can be maintained on a basis of equality.

#### Boundary Agreements

Not since the conclusion of the War of 1812 has there been a serious threat of conflict from either side. The accepted pattern for the peaceful settlement of future disputes was set by the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817, which effected permanent disarmament on the Great Lakes.

The determination of the boundary provided a knotty problem. The long disputed line between New Brunswick and Maine was fixed in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. The western boundary still remained under dispute: the Democrats entered the election of 1844 in the United States with the campaign slogan "54:40 or fight", and won the election.

Arbitration, however, closed the dispute in 1846 by setting the boundary at the 49'th parallel. The last outstanding boundary problem between Canada and the United States was settled by arbitration in 1903 with the drawing of the Alaska boundary.