

uniquely qualified, for he could use his influence with the British Government on behalf of the Dominion, with the Canadian Government as the representative of the Crown and the imperial authorities in Great Britain, and sometimes, with the United States Government, although Britain had her Ambassador at Washington. This influence was not negligible in securing good relations with the United States in so far as that could be done by social means and the interchange visits of the heads of the two States.

Those social visits, or unofficial correspondence, with the British Ambassador or with American leaders, were occasionally used as means to review unofficially and tentatively matters which were of common interest to the two countries, although their diplomatic character was restricted to informal and private relations. As gestures of goodwill and friendship to a great neighbour, they had their value, and served to create an atmosphere in which more formal diplomacy could work. In a later year, President Roosevelt remarked that there was nothing to prevent him and Lord Tweedsmuir from sitting on the same sofa and soliloquizing aloud; and if one overheard what the other said, that was unavoidable.

There were numerous instances of the active part which various Governors General played personally in the conduct of Canada's external relations, especially with the United States. Lord Dufferin made visits to Chicago and Detroit, and to British Columbia via