

For the same reason, they must not be surprised to find us vigorously expanding the market for our goods in the United States. Fortunately, we have been able to develop this market enormously since the end of the war. The United States is now our best customer. We hope that we will be able to maintain this development without diminishing our trade across the Atlantic. Above all, we hope that circumstances will not force us to make a choice of markets between the United Kingdom and the United States. We do not wish to have too many of our eggs in one basket - it makes us too dependent on the basket. But we have a lot of eggs - and we have to find some place for them if we can. We would certainly be unhappy, however, if having, for a long space of time, financed, through credits, part of our trade across the Atlantic, we lost that trade through no fault of our own and were forced more and more completely to depend on our dealings with the United States as the basis of our economic strength and development. I mention these circumstances to this audience in order that you may be the better able to interpret our position in this country.

The economic position is, of course, only one part of the story of our relations with the United Kingdom and the United States. Politically also there is a dualism about our destiny. We are of the North American continent and of the British Commonwealth; bilingual, not merely in the French-English sense, but in the sense that we speak English and American. Do not, however, over here write us off as a former colony going swiftly through a transitional stage of dominion status prior to becoming a United States satellite. Believe me, that is not true, nor is this the destiny that lies ahead of a country whose future is as bright as any in the world. That future is based on national freedom, on self-reliance and on self-respect. It includes the closest possible co-operation with, but not absorption by the United States. It includes also the maintenance of our family relationship in that Commonwealth of Nations which has still a great part to play in the world's affairs.

This dualism of our economic and political development has, of course, been frequently apparent in the present century. We have participated in two great European wars, immediately and from the beginning in each case, because our people knew that their own freedom and their own way of life were in danger when western Europe was in danger. On the other hand, our contribution to those wars has been North American rather than European in character. Industrial strength and economic resources, located at a safe distance from the enemy, have been as important as our military effort, and in both cases we have employed these resources to the full.

In the past it was always possible that this dual British-American association might cause us discomfort. When opinion in the United States became strongly isolationist, there were bound to be reflections of this attitude amongst people in Canada. Our membership in the old League of Nations sometimes embarrassed us, because the attitude of the United States to actions of the League could not safely be predicted. When war came, and we were involved before the United States, tensions were set up across our border, to be removed only when, eventually, we were all in together.

There has, however, been a change of enormous importance in our position - a change which is signified by the fact that both Canada and the United States are represented at the North Atlantic Council meeting now taking place in London. As far as the safety of the Western World is concerned, we are now all in together - the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, and the other members of our alliance. We are in not only "from the beginning" -