

The part of the Speech most widely-commented upon related to political union, and Mr. Harding, whose courtesy led him to speak of Canada annexing his country, said:

Do not encourage any enterprise looking to Canada's annexation of the United States. You are one of the most capable governing peoples of the world, but I entreat you, for your own sakes, to think twice before undertaking management of the territory which lies between the Great Lakes and the Rio Grande. No, let us go our own gaits along parallel roads, you helping us and we helping you. So long as each country maintains its independence, and both recognize their interdependence, those paths cannot fail to be highways of progress and prosperity.

This point of view, generally approved of in Canada, met with a similar reception in the United States. It caused, however, some adverse comment. On July 27 the *New York Evening World* said: "President Harding's advice to Canada, given in his Vancouver speech to 'Go her own Gait' was rather an unnecessary pronouncement. He may be proclaiming against destiny. . . . Yet the day must come when Canada will turn to the United States as an elder brother and ask to come in. The North-West is largely American now; the French, a menace to English-speaking control in the East."

This indicated that the talk of secession from the rest of Canada, occasionally heard in the Canadian West, was thought, in some circles in the United States, to be significant of a movement for annexation.

The friendly relations between the two countries received new emphasis when, on Sept. 4, Charles E. Hughes, the American Secretary of State, was the guest of honour at a banquet in Montreal given by the Canadian Government at the time of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Bar Association. The Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King presided and Mr. Hughes' topic was "The Pathway of Peace". In the most significant paragraphs he made a proposal for a permanent Commission to deal with all matters at issue between the United States and Canada. He said:

We have at this time, under our Treaty of 1909 relating to boundary waters and questions arising along the boundary between Canada and the United States, an International Joint Commission with powers of investigation and report within the scope of the treaty. While I do not undertake to speak officially upon this subject, I may take the liberty of stating, as my personal view, that we should do much to foster our friendly relations and to remove sources of misunderstanding and possible irritation if we were to have a permanent body of our most distinguished citizens acting as a commission, with equal representation of both the United States and Canada to which automatically there would be referred, for examination and report as to the facts, questions arising as to the bearing of action by either Government upon the interests of the other, to the end that each, reasonably protecting its own interests, would be so advised that it would avoid action inflicting unnecessary injury upon its neighbour.