

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Good Neighbourhood

The proximity of Canada and the United States and their common stake in the North American continent are factors in the deep-rooted kinship which exists between their peoples. Business, press, entertainment, sports, labour, cultural, social service, scientific, and fraternal organizations, all tend to develop along continental rather than national lines. From clothing to comic-strips, the products in daily use throughout Canada are much the same as those in the United States.

Canada's largest trade union bodies are the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour: both these organizations include unions which are affiliated with their United States counterparts. From a material standpoint, Canadians enjoy a North American standard of living similar to that achieved by the United States.

One out of every seven Canadians drives his own automobile, and there are about eighteen telephones for every twenty-five households. Refrigerators, washing-machines, oil furnaces, sewing-machines and domestic mechanical devices of all kinds are common to Canadian and United States homes, both urban and rural. The radio and the press continuously reveal the lives of the two peoples to one another. The sale in Canada of United States publications, mostly magazines, nets their publishers more than \$12 million a year.

Border-crossing Citizens

A strong influence in the development of their friendly relations has been a sense of common origin. The great majority of the people of both countries are of western European stock. This feeling of kinship has been strengthened by the free movement of population back and forth across the border. It is estimated that in a single year the border is crossed at least, 30,000,000 times by the citizens of both countries. The intermingling of the two populations is unprecedented in history. About fourteen out of every hundred persons born in Canada and now alive are living in the United States, and some 350,000 persons of United States birth have made their homes in Canada. Tourists from the United States probably will spend about \$300 million in Canada this year; and the desire of Canadians to travel in the United States is equally strong.

Neighbourly Gestures

The community of interest of the two countries on the grand scale - economic, political, strategic - can be readily underlined by the activities of citizens of both countries who are, literally, neighbours and friends. The towns of Calais (Maine) and Milltown and St. Stephen (New Brunswick) for many years have pooled their water supply, hospital services, and fire-fighting equipment. A joint edition put out by the Prince Rupert (British Columbia) Daily News and the Ketchikan (Alaska) Chronicle in November 1949 is probably the first international "special" in history: and the Edmonton (Alberta) Journal commented editorially at that time that "It is interesting to note that both Canadians and Americans in this part of the world would like to see more use made of Prince Rupert - the most northerly-Pacific port with transcontinental railway connections - as an outlet for Alaska's trade." The shortest rail route between Montreal and Saint John, New Brunswick, lies through Maine, and it is taken for granted that United States trains from Detroit to Buffalo take a short cut through Ontario.