

*Address of President Truman*

between the United States and Canada over the years, and which was especially evident during the years of war.

The Ogdensburg agreement and the Hyde Park declaration are the two great landmarks of our wartime co-operation. During the war these agreements were the basis of joint action in defence, in production, and in finance. Over and over again we have heard it said that co-operation, which was so effective as one of the instruments of victory in war, should be continued as one of the means of achieving and maintaining security and prosperity in a time of peace. By continuing co-operation along similar lines, Canada and the United States will not only be furthering their mutual interests, they will be strengthening the foundation of a new world order, an order based on international understanding, on mutual aid, on friendship and good will.

Mr. HARRY S. TRUMAN (President of the United States): Mr. Prime Minister, honourable members of the Senate, and members of the House of Commons of Canada: This is my first visit to Canada as President of the United States, and I am happy that it affords me the opportunity to address this meeting of the members of both houses of the Canadian Parliament. Here is a body which exemplifies the self-government and freedom of the nations of the great British Commonwealth. The history of the Commonwealth proves that it is possible for many nations to work and live in harmony for the common good.

I wish to acknowledge the many courtesies extended to me on this visit by the Governor General, Viscount Alexander, who paid me the honour of a visit in Washington a few months ago. His career as a soldier and as a statesman eminently qualifies him to follow his illustrious predecessors.

For the courtesy of appearing before you, as for other courtesies, I am sure I am largely indebted to my good friend Prime Minister Mackenzie King. I was particularly happy to be present yesterday when he was honoured in the rotunda of this Parliament Building. It was a wonderful ceremony, and a tribute which I think he richly deserved. I also appreciate the political advice he gave me this morning. I have come to value and cherish his friendship and statesmanship. As our two nations have worked together in solving the difficult problems of the post-war period, I have developed greater and greater respect for his wisdom.

Americans who come to know Canada informally, such as our tourists, as well as those whose approach is more academic, learn that Canada is a broad land—broad in mind and

in spirit as well as in physical expanse. They find that the composition of your population and the evolution of your political institutions hold a lesson for the other nations of the earth. Canada has achieved internal unity and material strength, and has grown in stature in the world community, by solving problems that might have hopelessly divided and weakened a less gifted people.

Canada's eminent position today is a tribute to the patience, tolerance, and strength of character of her people, of both French and British strains. For Canada is enriched by the heritage of France as well as of Britain, and Quebec has imparted the vitality and spirit of France itself to Canada. Canada's notable achievement of national unity and progress through accommodation, moderation, and forbearance can be studied with profit by her sister nations.

Much the same qualities have been employed, with like success, in your relations with the United States. Perhaps I should say "your foreign relations with the United States." But the word "foreign" seems strangely out of place. Canada and the United States have reached the point where we no longer think of each other as "foreign" countries. We think of each other as friends, as peaceful and co-operative neighbours on a spacious and fruitful continent.

We must go back a long way, nearly a century and a half, to find a time when we were not on good terms. In the war of 1812 there was fighting across our frontier. But permanent good came of that brief campaign. It shocked Canadians and Americans into a realization that continued antagonism would be costly and perilous. The first result of that realization was the Rush-Bagot agreement in 1817, which embodied a spirit and an attitude that have permeated our relations to this day. This agreement originally was intended to limit and to regulate the naval vessels of both countries on the great lakes. It has become one of the world's most effective disarmament agreements and is the basis for our much-hailed unfortified frontier.

I speak of that period of history to make the point that the friendship that has characterized Canadian-American relations for many years did not develop spontaneously. The example of accord provided by our two countries did not come about merely through the happy circumstance of geography. It is compounded of one part proximity and nine parts good will and common sense.

We have had a number of problems, but they have all been settled by adjustment, by compromise, and by negotiations inspired by a spirit of mutual respect and a desire for