

very often at actions on your part in excluding or limiting imports for reasons which seem to us to have little justification in sound economics.

Finally, no one can understand Canada who does not appreciate the importance of our bilingual culture and tradition. If the national character of Canada has any unique quality, it is, I believe, largely because one Canadian in three speaks French as his maternal tongue and traces his ancestry to old France. Under our fundamental law these fellow Canadians of ours enjoy the guarantee of their own language, their own laws and their own religion. Their vitality and determination, their attachment to the soils of Canada, and to the traditions of their fathers - even more than their constitutional rights - these qualities have entrenched French Canada into the structure of our country. And we are all the richer and stronger for it.

The accomplishment of our Confederation in 1867 was inspired by the vision of a united nation in British North America, stretching from sea to sea; its consolidation required the determination of Canadian political leaders. Our union developed upon a backbone composed of the St. Lawrence River system and the extension of that system west to the Pacific. Like the United States, Canada is composed of a number of regions which differ widely in physical characteristics and climate - the Maritime Provinces, Central Canada, the prairies, the Pacific Coast. This regionalism, which corresponded largely to what existed south of the boundary, coupled with the drag of strong economic forces, suggested to Americans of the last century that the manifest destiny of the United States included the absorption of Canada.

In fact, the very proximity of these vigorous, self-confident United States has proved to be a continuing stimulus to Canadian nationalism. The pressure of continentalism, the determination to resist annexation, a hundred years ago constituted one of the strongest forces which united the young provinces of Canada. So the throbbing presence alongside us in the twentieth century of the most powerful nation on earth - despite the easy informality and intimacy of our friendship - serves in some strange way to confirm in us the determination of our fathers that Canada should be a separate, independent North American country.

In the affairs of this continent we Canadians are your neighbours and your partners. But we are now cast with you on a larger stage beyond the shores of North America - as allies with other free nations in Europe and in Asia. And this has brought about an alteration in the Canadian-American relationship - an alteration which is important to us both.

In 1919, Canada made her debut in international society and became a member of the League of Nations. But, no more than other older and more experienced countries, who perhaps should have known better, were the Canadian Government and the Canadian people yet prepared to accept the implications, and obligations, of a regime of collective security. Also, we were very much preoccupied with our own affairs. Canada had entered the First World War in 1914 and fought through to 1918 at great cost and with very heavy casualties. But in the years which followed we were, for the most part, content to let Europeans and Asians deal with their own problems, without too much thought of the certain