

That Canada and the United States are co-operating in providing for continental defences along the northern reaches of our land is, of course, well-known. The Permanent Joint Board on Defence, established by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and President Roosevelt at Ogdensburg in 1940, has since that time, both in war, and in the post-war period that we cannot yet call peace, been responsible for advising the governments of these two allied nations on common problems of defence in the North as well as on their ocean frontiers. Just what steps have been, or are being taken, as a result of recommendations from the Board are, of course, matters that cannot be made the subject of public discussion.

One point in connection with this defence collaboration should, however, be repeatedly emphasized. In spite of charges made in other parts of the world and echoed in some circles in Canada, the principle of Canadian sovereignty over our own land and waters has not been placed in danger. Canada has more than paid her way in the contributions that she has made to the common problems of joint defence. Wherever military or or semi-military establishments are set up on Canadian soil, they are under Canadian control. Whenever service exercises are undertaken on the lands or seas of this country, the final authority under which they are conducted is the authority of the Canadian people, expressed through our parliamentary institutions.

As international collaboration develops, it is possible that Canada may join with other nations in the relinquishment of an increasing measure of national sovereignty to some international authority. But this country has not surrendered and will not surrender the control of its territory or of its activities to any foreign state - no matter how friendly our relations may be. We have not gained independence from London in order to relinquish it to Washington.

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There has, however, been an altogether unhealthy emphasis placed on the military significance of recent developments in the Canadian North. It is undoubtedly true that Canada is doing whatever is necessary to provide for the exigencies of defence in that area, but far more significant for the long-term history of humanity on this continent is the work that is being done by the scientists, explorers, administrators, educators, missionaries, doctors and social workers who have been carrying the benefits, and occasionally and inadvertently the detriments, of our national way of life into the endless reaches of the North. These are the men and women who are working on our last frontier. It is they who will bring this harsh, stubborn and silent land into effective contact with the rest of Canada. It is through their intelligence and goodwill that the progress of our northern peoples toward integral union with other Canadians will be amicably effected. Here the old tradition that demanded extermination of forcible subjection of the native inhabitants by the conquering power is being translated into terms and practices less abhorrent to the humane and Christian spirit. Amalgamation is inevitable, ruthless coercion is not.

Because little is known of the work that is being done by pioneer Canadians in Arctic regions, and because these pioneers will need others to assist and succeed them, it is worth placing briefly on record some of the important and stirring human events that are taking place beyond our northern horizon.

Fundamental in any record of developmental activities in the North is the work of our scientists and technicians. At the scientific research stations at Churchill and Baker Lake some of the most competent Canadian specialists are struggling with basic research problems in entomology, the mechanics of snow and ice, nutrition, archeology, protection against cold, and many similar or related subjects. Weather stations have been established at strategic locations throughout the whole area and meteorological knowledge is rapidly expanding. Experts from the Dominion