

past, what they are at present, and what they should be in the future?

In fact, this is the root of my subject. The general state of international unrest is nothing, after all, but the transmission, through the ramification of international rivalries and alliances, of some local points of friction between individual States. The part that Canada will be called upon to play in the game of international politics will depend mainly upon her relations with her powerful and sole neighbour, the United States of America.

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Elaborate preparations are just being made to commemorate the century of continuous peace between the two great English-speaking nations. The object is undoubtedly worthy of recognition and mutual congratulations.

I hope it will not be considered ungracious if I recall the fact that, although war has not been actually declared between Great Britain and the United States, there have been, during those hundred years, long periods of strained relations, and, on several occasions, serious and acute causes of misunderstanding which brought the two countries on the verge of armed conflict.

The most practical manner of celebrating that centenary of peace would undoubtedly be, in both countries, the adoption of measures and the propounding of sentiments, most likely to eradicate all possible causes of dissension. Foremost among those measures should be the solemn pledge to resort to arbitration in all present and future cases of dispute. Naturally, that pledge should be mutually sincere, and resorted to even when sordid interests or jingoistic clamours may try to raise obstacles and trouble.

But the main object I have in view, in recalling the past instances of strained relations between Great Britain and the United States, is to point out that in none of those instances Canada was involved, directly or indirectly. More than that, Canada was not concerned in either of the two bloody conflicts which were terminated, the first by the Treaty of Versailles, in 1783, the other by the Peace of Ghent, in 1814.

The protracted struggle which culminated in the self-creation of the American Republic arose from the resistance offered by the English colonists to the pretension of the British authorities to tax them without their consent or participation.

Although we, Canadians, resisted the temptation to join hands with the "rebels", we continued the same struggle, by more pacific methods, and finally secured the acknowledgment by Great Britain of the principle for which the founders of the American Republic had fought.

The war of 1812-13 was due to the persistency with which Great Britain exercised on American vessels the so-called right of visit. Although they stood loyally by Great Britain on the battlefield, Canadians had no sympathy with and no part in the cause of the war.

The agitation raised in the United States over the delimitation of the northern boundary of the Western States — the "fifty-four forty or fight" war cry of the Clay-Po'k electoral contest, in 1844, — took place long before Canada had possession and control of the territory in dispute.

During the protracted Civil War, the sympathies of the Canadian people were much more divided than the sentiments of the British. With the Trent incident and the raids of the Alabama, they had nothing to do.

The fenian incursions across the frontiers of Canada were a repercussion of the thorny problem of British rule in Ireland — a matter entirely foreign to Canada.

With the Venezuela incident, Canada, of course, had nothing to do.

The latest dispute, on the determination of the Alaska boundary, was finally settled in a manner not altogether acceptable to many Canadians;