

here and there at points that might otherwise become overheated.

Last, and certainly not the least important function of all is looking after the interest of and welcoming his fellow countrymen individually as well as collectively.

This occupies a great deal of time and sometimes calls for more than a little patience, and may range from his Prime Minister, on a State visit to the President, to John Snook, who may have run out of U.S. funds and who may hope that his Minister will act in the capacity of a Bank, a Travel Bureau or a social secretary.

So much for the duties of a diplomatic mission.

I now pass to our relations with other countries.

Before the United States entered the war, when, after the fall of France, Britain and the Dominions stood against the onrush of Nazi tyranny alone, we sorely needed friends.

We felt, indeed we knew, that the United States was with us in spirit, but that was not enough. We wanted to know just how soon they were going to be with us, complete with the accoutrements of war, and the will to use them.

By that I mean that we of the whole British Commonwealth wanted to know what course the United States would take in the war.

So far as the defence of Canada was concerned, we, for somewhat selfish reasons, could view the future with more equanimity than could Britain, who was only twenty-two miles from the big guns of Herr Hitler.

President Roosevelt had set our minds at rest as to the relationships which would exist with his great nation should Canada be the actual object of an Axis attack.

He had told us, and had told the world, that Canada's defence would be regarded as one with the defence of the United States itself.

Whatever the situation might have been in peacetime

relationships/