

North of us, south of us. Good neighbors. by Warren H. Atherton. National commander, The American legion. Reprint from the American legion magazine, February 1944.

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North of Us, South of Us GOOD NEIGHBORS

BY WARREN H. ATHERTON

National Commander, The American Legion

Good Neighbors are a blessing.

Bad neighbors are a curse.

We in the United States have been blessed. We have neighbors to the North and South who are an asset to our neighborhood.

Canada and nineteen of the twenty American Republics to the South of us are aligned with us against the Axis.

Most of these neighbors stood up to be counted on our side when German raiders were roaming the Atlantic and the Japs were loose in the Pacific: this expression of friendship has cost Brazil, Panama and Mexico the loss of ships and lives; this willingness to stand with us cost South America a bombardment.

The products of the arsenal of democracy are beginning to turn the tide of battle. We alone are making more planes and ships and armament than all the Axis put together. We could not do this without the oil, aluminum, tin, rubber, magnesium, tungsten and other vital raw materials which our neighbors are furnishing us.

After the war is over more business with our neighbors will help provide jobs for returning soldiers.

We shall continue to need their raw materials. They will want our finished materials.

Developing sources of raw materials which South and Central America have in abundance, and improving the channels of trade will make this hemisphere self-sufficient should we ever again be cut off from the rest of the world.



Without the obligation of a super-state, without coercion, and in the best spirit of neighborliness, the other American Republics have stood by us in our time of need. We should appreciate that kind of friendship and do the things which will perpetuate it.

Exchange of students, mutual study of one another's language, completion of the inter-American highway, frequent conventions of the American nations and increased trade relations will bind us together in a firm and lasting friendship.

Forevermore let's drop the word "foreign" from our Latin-American Foreign Relations and be "relations." Let's drop, too, the word "policy" from our Good Neighbor Policy and be, in fact, good neighbors.

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