

Canadian view -- or I should say, different Canadian views of free trade.

That Free Trade is not an easy matter to resolve to everyone's satisfaction is amply demonstrated by history. A hundred and fifty years ago, the great English historian, Thomas Babington Macaulay, when he was writing about ancient Greece another two thousand years before that, was driven to say "Free trade, one of the greatest blessings which a government can confer on a people, is in almost every country unpopular."

From this it can be seen, and ought to be constantly kept in mind, that any two nations attempting to come to an equitable and mutually beneficial conclusion to this vexed question are handicapped and inhibited by the many regional and factional interests within their own respective borders that all have different views. This is certainly true in the United States where the pendulum is always swinging from the isolationism of the thirties, to the enthusiasm for GATT of the late forties, and back again to the protectionism that is once again gaining ascendancy, as the U.S. trade deficit rises to approximately \$170 billion and as the U.S. faces, with understandable aversion, its new status as the world's largest debtor nation.

In Canada the divergencies in outlook seem to depend on the degree to which one values, and fears for, our economic and cultural sovereignty. Canadians differ in their opinions on this point all the way from those who long to be the fifty-first state of the union to those whose battle cry is "No truck nor trade with the Yankees because they are going to take us over."