

PRIVATE CONNECTIONS

The United States sells more goods to Canada than it sells to Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy combined, nearly as much as to all of Asia including Japan. Canada consumes about one-fifth of all American merchandise trade which makes Canada America's largest trading partner. Canada sells more to the United States than it does to all other countries combined, more than 75% of total exports. The high profile of Japanese cars and consumer electronics causes many Americans to believe that Japan is their largest trading partner, yet trade with Canada is half again as large.

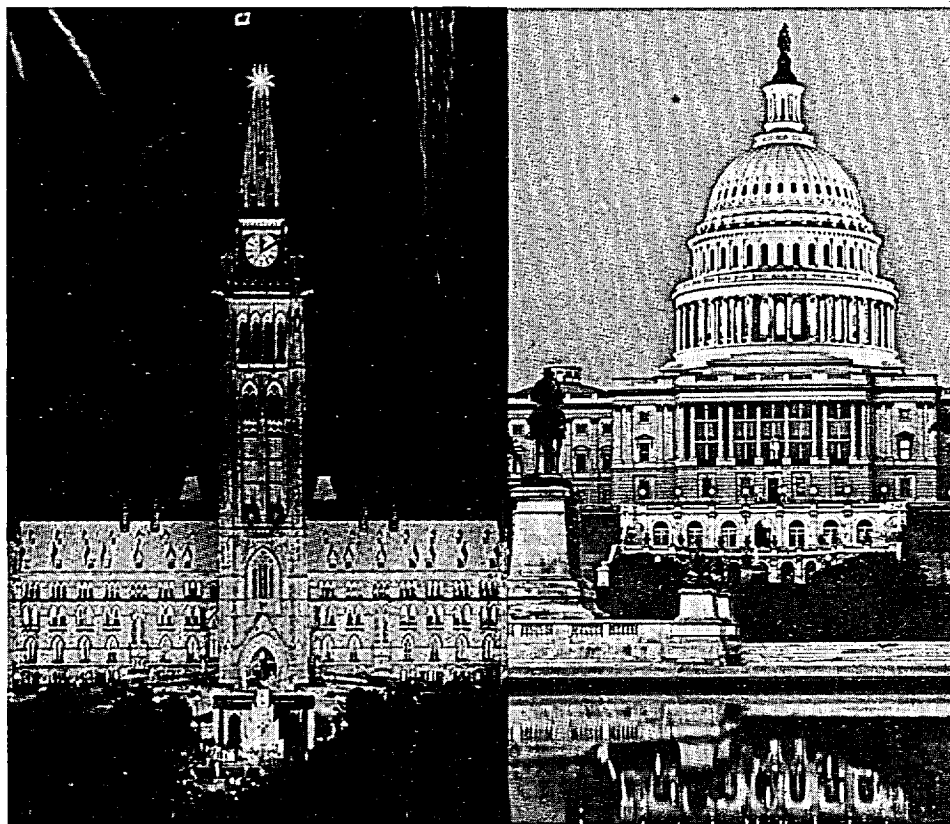
The economic relationship is far more complicated than these figures show. Steel made in Ontario uses coke and iron ore from Pennsylvania; the steel is exported to the United States and made into auto parts; the auto parts are imported into Canada and installed into a Canadian made auto; the auto is exported to the United States where it is purchased by a Canadian emigre designing computer software for use in Canadian steel mills.

Once taken out of the realm of statistics and financial reports, the real relationship is people. In Pennsylvania, 30 000 people owe their jobs to the export of goods to Ontario; in southern Ontario, 800 000 people depend on exports to the United States; two million Americans owe their jobs to exports to Canada; nearly three million Canadians, 20% of the workforce, owe their jobs to exports to the United States.

Borderlines

Undefended and undefendable; porous as pumice and solid as the Precambrian Shield; unremarked by Canadian and American alike, the border is more than an arbitrary divide for neighbours to squabble across. Along any given stretch of border, people on either side have more in common with each other than with other countrymen. Farmers, fishermen, small business men, lumbermen, miners, firemen, doctors and academics — all belong to international interest groups, bicker over perceived or real inequalities and cooperate unthinkingly in times of crisis.

Firemen respond to calls on both sides of the border; air and sea search and rescue teams from the coast guard answer calls from either country; organ donors benefit citizens of both cultures; law enforcement agencies cooperate in joint operations; and, research and development sharing makes it difficult to define the point of origin of either concept or product.



The Hill — Parliament Hill and Capitol Hill

Where should cooperation end and the protection of national sovereignty begin? Consider the case of the combine harvesters. In 1942 President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, as part of the joint war effort, agreed that combiners should be allowed to work in either country in order to maximize farm equipment and labour. The agreement made such sense that it continued down to the present. Combiners purchase expensive equipment made from the efforts and resources of both countries, and follow the grain harvest from southern Texas, through the Great Plains to the Prairies at the dictates of the season. Recent changes in immigration regulations governing the movements of workers and designed to protect an immediate national interest, effectively put a stop to the movement that benefitted people in both countries.

At the opposite end of the scale is a treaty such as that regulating the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park. There, a committee of three Canadians and three Americans direct operations for the benefit of visitors from both countries, and share the costs and profits on a 50-50 basis.

Of all the items from apples to zippers that Canada and the United States exchange, the most important is people. In 1984, 33 million came north and 36.8 million went south; some for a day, and some for a lifetime.

Since there are only 25 million Canadians altogether, some crossed more than once. Some seek a career; some escape from the winter cold; some pursue adventure; and some visit family roots. Inevitably, they learn from each other and enrich each other in industry, in culture, in technology and in daily life. Whether the visitors are official or unofficial, it is the people who put the balance into the relationship.

Miscellany

The average Canadian visiting the United States for more than one night spends \$260.50, while the average American spends \$194.44 (US \$145.83).

It took 42 years to negotiate the Skagit River Treaty, but only 15 years for the Pacific Salmon Treaty ratified at the Quebec Summit. Things are looking up.

The Canadarm of shuttle fame is officially referred to as the Space Shuttle Attached Remote Manipulator System.

Moosehead beer from New Brunswick is sold in 50 states but only three provinces. "The Moose is Loose".

Canada is the third largest foreign direct investor in the United States, supplying nearly 10% of all foreign investment capital.

America supplies 80% of all foreign investment in Canada.