

Arduous Destiny: Canada in 1867



Dr. Jim Wood

5 July 2018

Lecture Outline

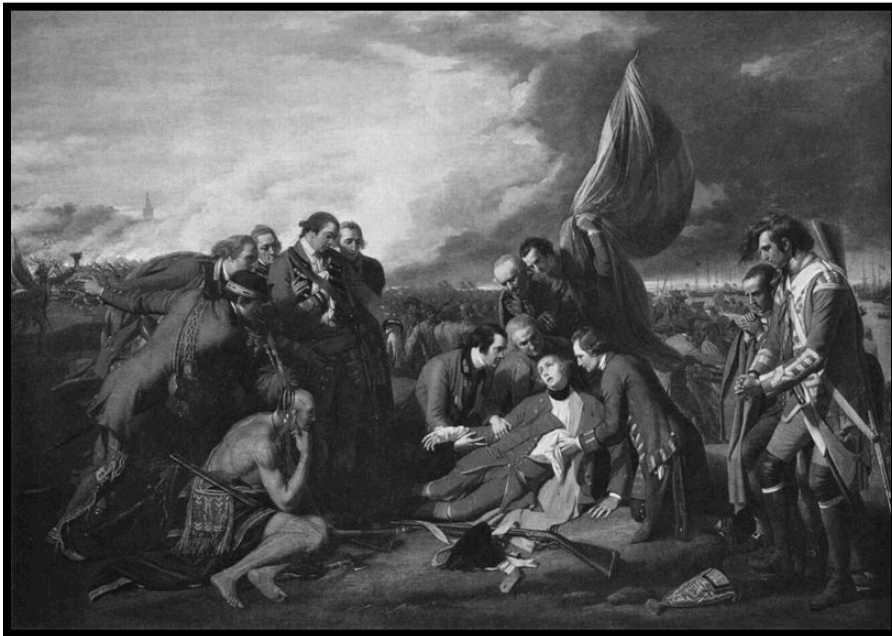
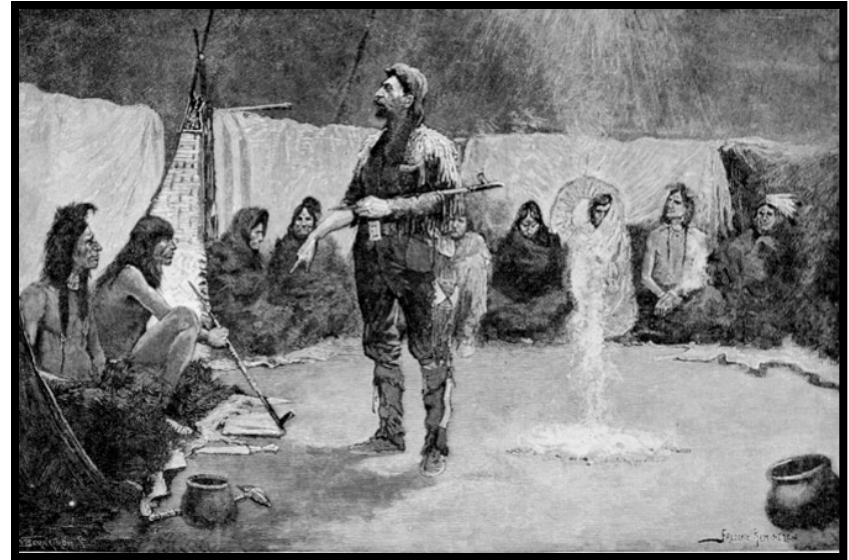
- 1. Background: From the Conquest to Confederation**
- 2. The State of the Union: Canada in 1867 - Society and Life**
- 3. Confederation's Discontents: The Nova Scotia Repeal Movement and the Red River Rebellion**

Giving Up the North American “Fortress Colony”:

The Treaty of Paris, 1763



In surrendering New France while retaining Guadeloupe, Louis XV's foreign minister, the Duke of Choiseul, believed a French withdrawal from America would set Britain's Thirteen Colonies on the road to rebellion.



The French position in the interior depended on its alliances with the First Nations. The French had to win over First Nations support by first following their protocols of diplomacy.



American Independence, 1783

**Treaty of Paris, 1783 confirms
Declaration of Independence**

**“Tory” Loyalists: 62,000 = 5%
US Population**

**- 30,000 evacuated from NY
alone**

- To be compensated by U.S.

**2/3 went to Nova Scotia (incl.
present-day New Brunswick)**

**6,000 Black loyalists - Sierra
Leone**



British cartoon depicting the fate of Boston customs officer John Malcomb, who was tarred and feathered and forced to drink tea in 1774.

Background:

The Napoleonic Wars

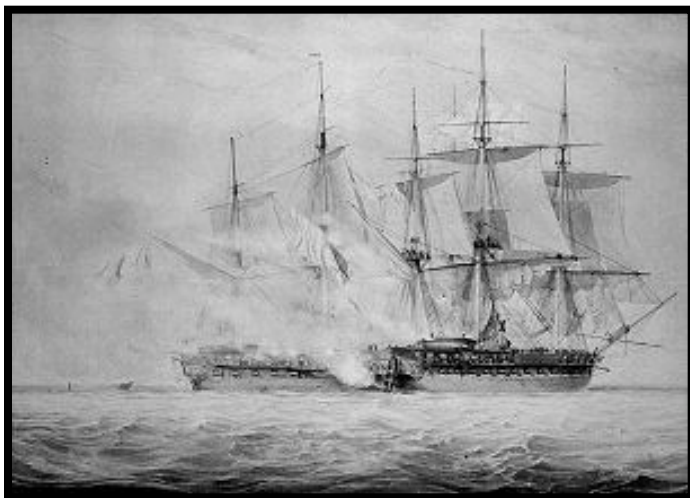
Napoleon's "Continental System"

British Blockade of Europe

US insists on Neutral Rights

Chesapeake Affair, 1807

President James Madison





Britain After Napoleon

Pre-war Baltic timber

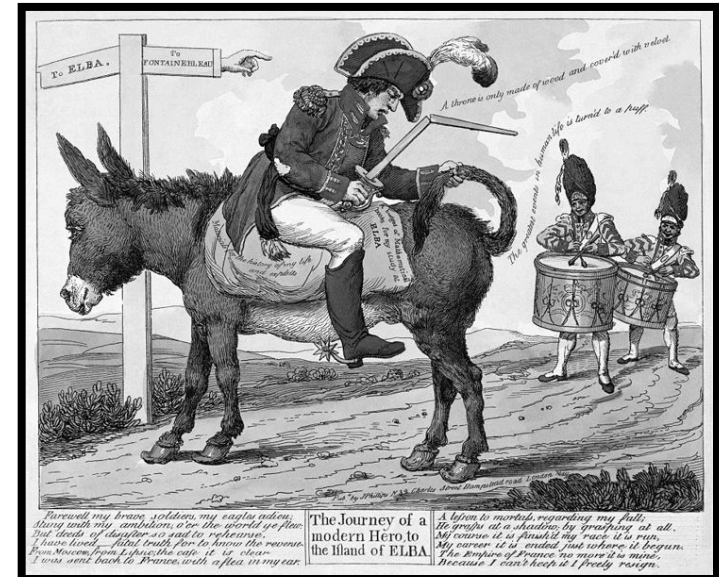
Continental System

**Tariffs encourage imports
of Canadian timber**

Post-war demobilization

**Industrialization and
enclosures**

**Assisted emigration to the
colonies**



Land Clearing

Wheat, Timber, Potash

Cash Crops = Economic Dev't

**Southern Ontario: 30% deforested
by 1850, 90% by 1914**

**Soil Erosion - Silt buildup; Last
Atlantic Salmon, 1890s (1988)**

“The universal Canadian practice has been followed in clearing the land, that of sweeping away anything capable of bearing a green leaf. The new settlers look upon trees as their enemies.”



From Mercantilism to Free Trade:

Britain and the New Imperialism

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) - Free Trade vs. Monopoly - *Laissez-faire*

British Abolition of Slavery, 1833 - immoral, inefficient

Upper and Lower Canadian Rebellions, 1837-38

**New Zealand Wars, 1845-72
- “Millstones around the neck of the British taxpayer”**

British Free Trade, 1846



“When the whole world was its domain for markets and supplies, what reason was there to guide and husband overseas possessions that cost more to maintain than they could ever return?”

Canada in the 1850s:

Responsible Government

British Free Trade, 1846

- Corn Laws & Preferences
- Montreal down 40%, 1849
- Annexation Manifesto

Britain seeks to encourage colonial self-government

Responsible Government, 1849

- Political deadlock
- Will independent colonies be annexed to US?
- Confederation, 1867



Above: Production of squared timber for overseas export. After the end of mercantilism in the British Empire, Montreal shipping declined 40% between 1847-49.

The Road to Confederation:

Internal Pressures

Province of Canada (Ont., QB)

- **Political Deadlock**
- **Land shortages**
- **Public Debt Railways**

Maritimes (N.S., N.B.)

- **Age of Sail vs. Age of Steam**
- **Railways, Canadian Mkts**

Federal Union

- **Provincial Autonomy**
- **End of US Reciprocity, 1866**
- **Nationalism? Germany 1871**



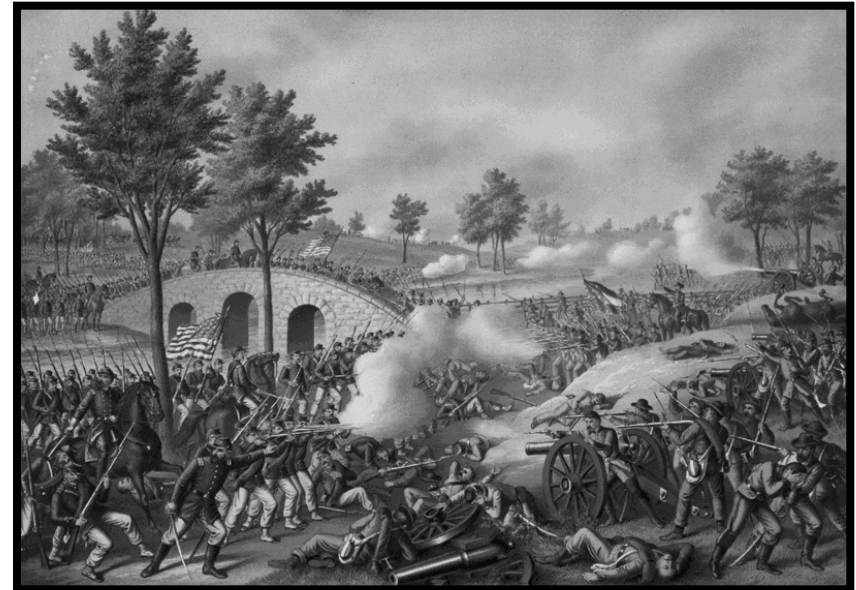
The Road to Confederation:
External Pressures and Threats

British Empire

- **Free Trade 1846**
- **“Colonial Millstones”**
- **Colonial Governors**

United States

- **U.S. Civil War, 1861-65**
- **End of Reciprocity, 1866**
- **“Manifest Destiny”**
- **Fenian Raids, 1866-71**
- **Alaska Purchase, 1867**



“Somewhere on Parliament Hill in Ottawa there should be erected a monument to the American ogre who has so often performed the function of saving us from drift and indecision.”

British-American Relations

***Trent* Affair - Nov. 1861 removal of 2 Southern envoys from British steamer; Lincoln releases to avoid war
- *Chesapeake* Affair (1807) in reverse**

CSS *Alabama*, 1862 - Tacit British support for the South, Liverpool shipyard, 64 Northern ships in 22 month - Americans demanding BNA as compensation

**St. Alban's, VT, 19 Oct. 1864 - Cross-border raid by Southern gang; robbed three banks for \$200,000
- "Slap on the Wrist" from Montreal Magistrate**

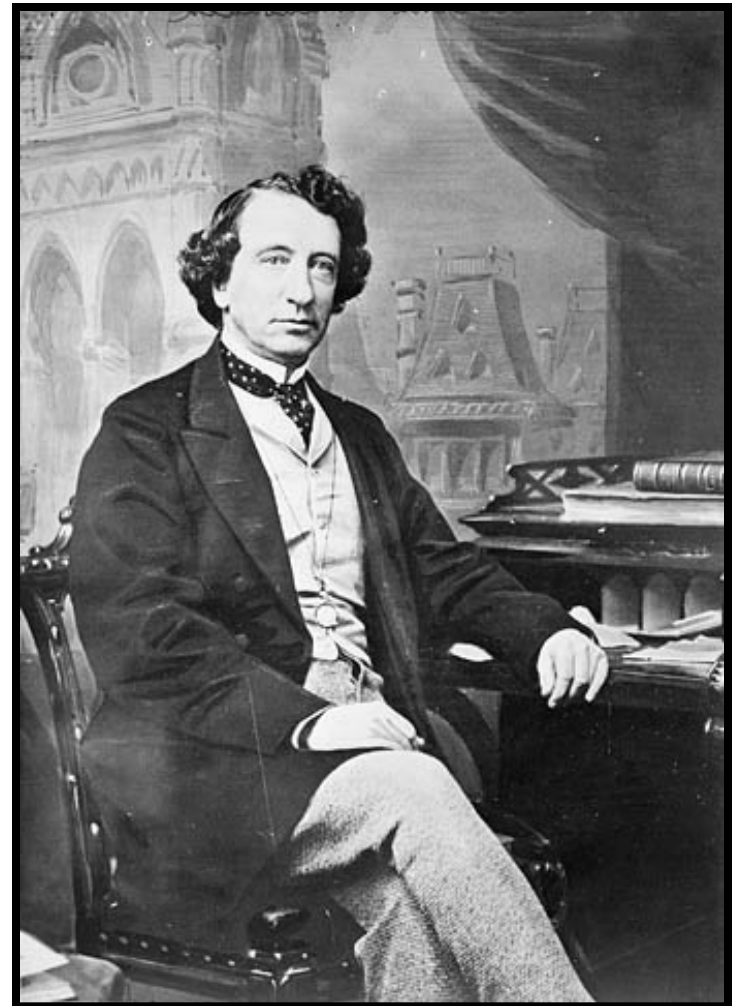
1 July 1867:
Confederation

The “Dominion of Canada”

**From Psalm 72: “He shall
have dominion also from
sea to sea, and from the
river unto the ends of the
earth.”**

**Ontario and Quebec
- Former “Province of
Canada”**

**Nova Scotia and New
Brunswick - Repeal Mov’t**



John A. Macdonald, 1868.

State of the Union, 1867: Population

British: 60%

- Irish 25%
- English 15%
- Scots 16%
- Welsh 5%

French: 33%

- Quebec = 85% of Fr. Cdns.
- Acadians (NS/NB) 10%

German: 8% - NS & Waterloo

African: 65,000 (2%)

Indigenous: 30,000 (1%)

ON 1,620,851

QB 1,191,516

NB 285,594

NS 387,800

Total Pop.: 3.5 Million

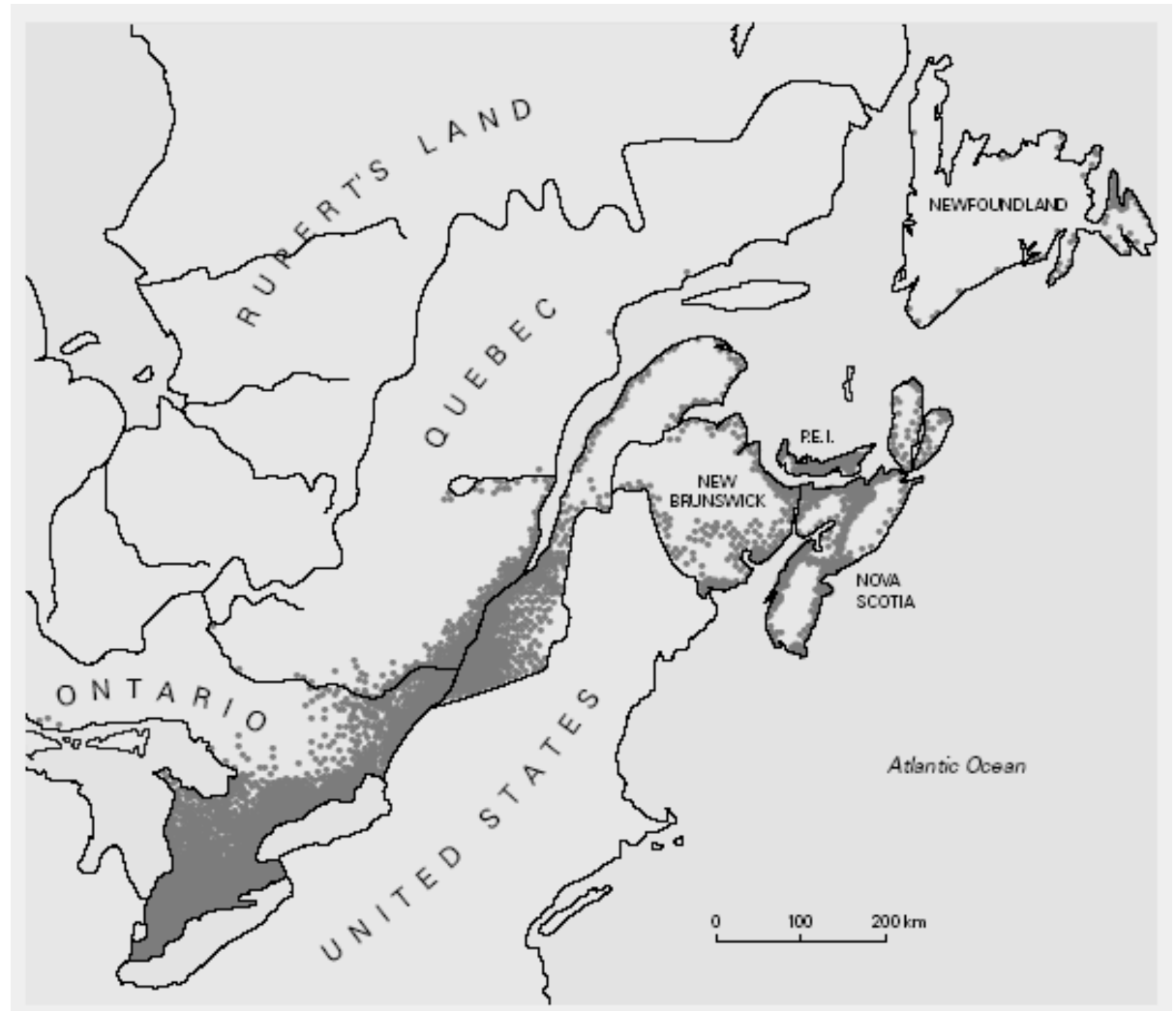
1. Montreal 105,000

2. QB City 60,000

3. Toronto 50,000

***4/5 Canadians lived in
communities of less than
1000 people**

**Chief areas of
settlement in
Canada, 1867. In
terms of their
population
Ontario and
Québec dominated
in the new
dominion.**



State of the Union, 1867: Economy

Extraction of Primary Resources

- Wood, Wheat, Fish**
- 80% Labour Force, 1867**

Agriculture and Deforestation

- S. Ontario 30% deforested by 1850; 90% by 1914**

Ontario's Wheat Boom

- U.S. Civil War = Demand**
- Land Shortage = Expansion**

QB's "Great Hemorrhage"

- Soil Exhaustion = Emigration**

While over 90% of Canadians [in 1867] traced their origins to France or Great Britain, most had never set foot in Europe... Canada was no longer a preferred destination for immigrants. By the mid-19th century, even the Canadian-born were beginning to move to the United States.

State of the Union, 1867: Economy

Manufacturing - Maritimes

- Shipbuilding's "Age of Sail"**
- Saint John, Halifax, Yarmouth**
- Cape Breton Coalfields**

Manufacturing - Central Canada

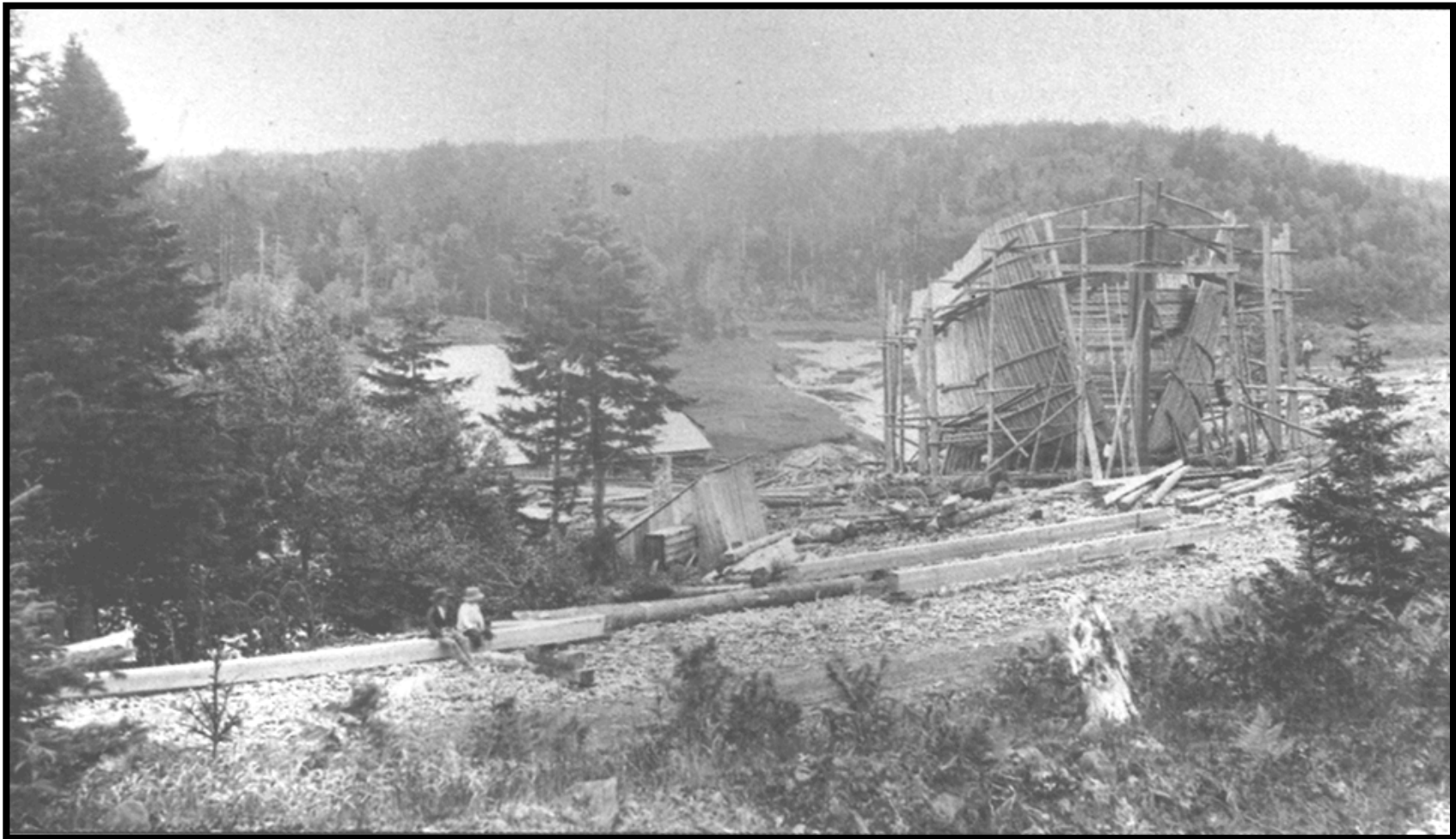
- Hamilton, Ont. - Rolling Mills**
- QB - "Cheap, Docile Labour"**
- Cold Winters - Seasonal Labour**

**Wealth - Toronto's top 10% owned
50% of its property**



The third quarter of the nineteenth century marked the high point of Maritime-built sailing ships, to be replaced by iron and steel vessels. The image shows sailing ships in Courtenay Bay, New Brunswick about 1860.

Dorchester, N.B., in 1875



State of the Union, 1867: Society

**Women - no right to vote,
excluded from higher ed., few
legal rights**

The Domestic Sphere

- 95% of women married**
- Ave. 7.8 children (4 by 1900)**
- “Women’s Rights”?**

Domestic Drudgery and Survival

- Laundry, Butter**
- Working Families - Children
were engaged in wage labour
more often than their mothers**

“Many children were required to work, argued one charity worker, from the fact that their parents probably earn very little, not sufficient to keep a large family unless the little fellows are sent to work at tender years.”

State of the Union, 1867: Society

Religion - Protestant 48%

- Anglican 14%**
- Presbyterian 16%**
- Methodist 16%**

Orange Order's 12th of July

Roman Catholicism - 43%

- French Cdns, Irish**
- Sisters of Notre Dame**
- Control of QB schools**

Education and Voluntarism

- Public Ed. - Property Taxes**



**Twelfth of July
Orange parade along
King Street in
Toronto, 1874**

Canada in 1867:

Summary and Conclusions

No Agreement on the Nature of Confederation

Predominantly Rural Society – 80% Wood, Wheat, Fish

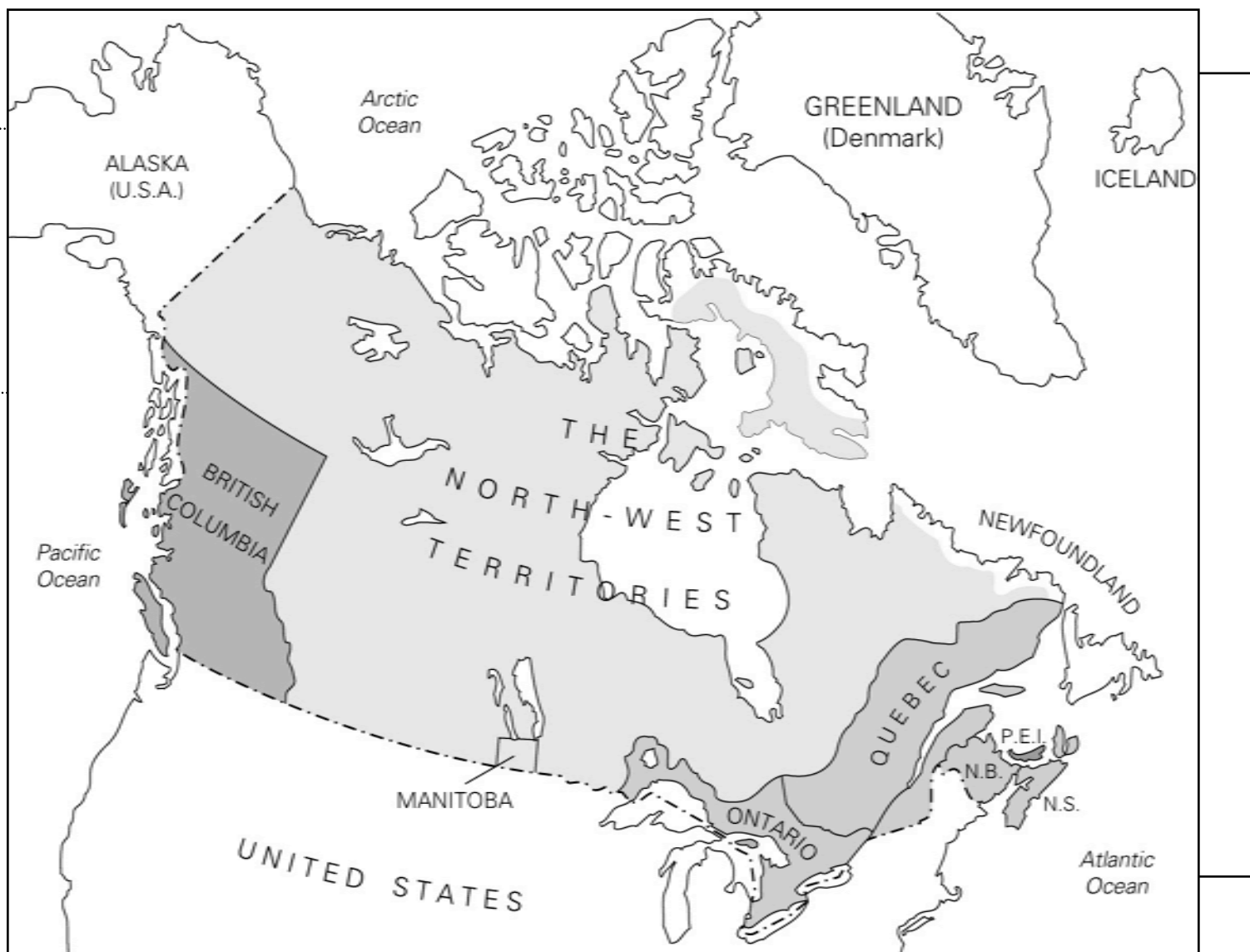
Growing Manufacturing Sector – Industrial Revolution

French Canada – RC Majority, w/ Sig. #s Anglo-Irish

English Canada – British Protestant Majority

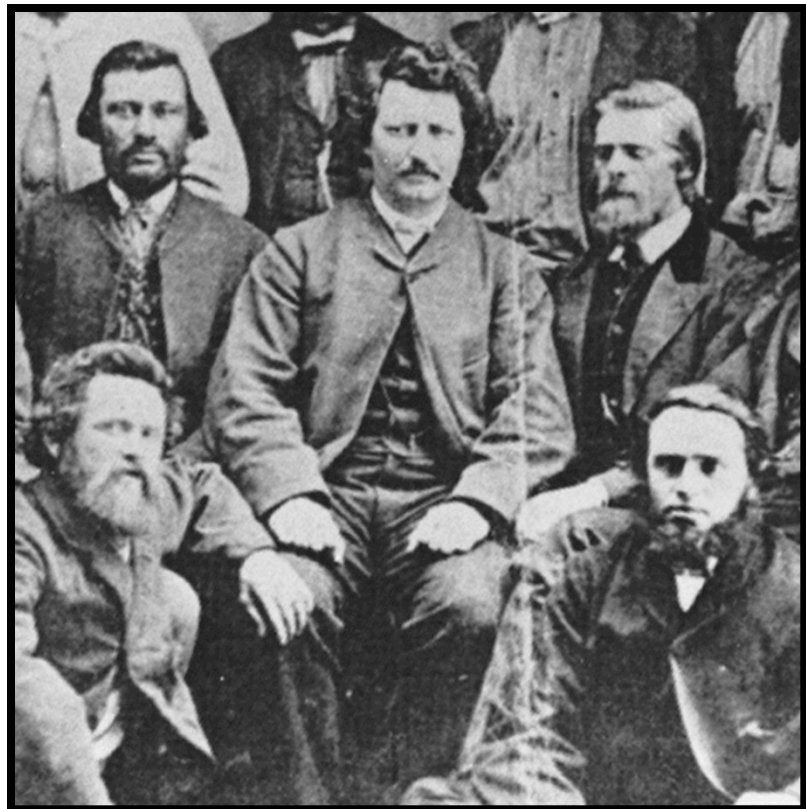
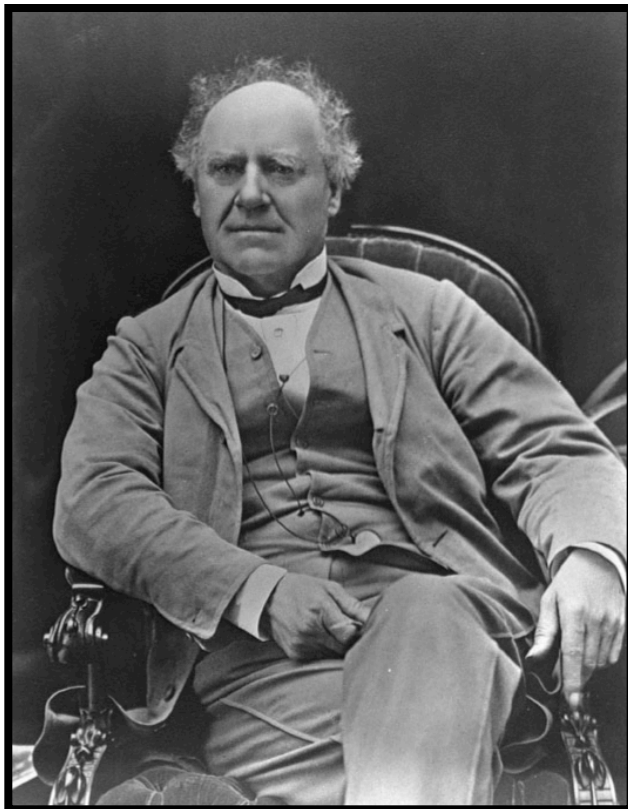
German, African, and Aboriginal Minorities

**Developing Nation – Limited State Powers (ie Taxes),
Rough Society, Few Rights or Protections for Women**



1873

Consolidating the Dominion:
A Nation from Sea-to-Sea



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5 July 2018

Lecture Outline

**1. Joseph Howe and the Nova Scotia
Repeal Movement**

**2. From the Red River Rebellion to the
Province of Manitoba**

The Nova Scotia Repeal Movement

**Maritime community
with ties to Britain
and New England**

Dr. Charles Tupper
- NS Premier, 1863-67
- No referendum

NS Elections, Sep. 1867
- Anti-Confed Victory
- 18/19 Fed., 36/38 Pr.

Joseph Howe
- Premier 1860-63
- Anti-Confed. League

Born: On Monday last [1 July 1867], at 12:05 a.m. (premature) the Dominion of Canada – illegitimate. This prodigy is known as the infant monster Confederation.

Eastern Chronicle (New Glasgow), 3 July 1867

Dr. Tupper was burned in effigy here on Monday night last. We are only sorry it was not in person.

The Novascotian
(Halifax)

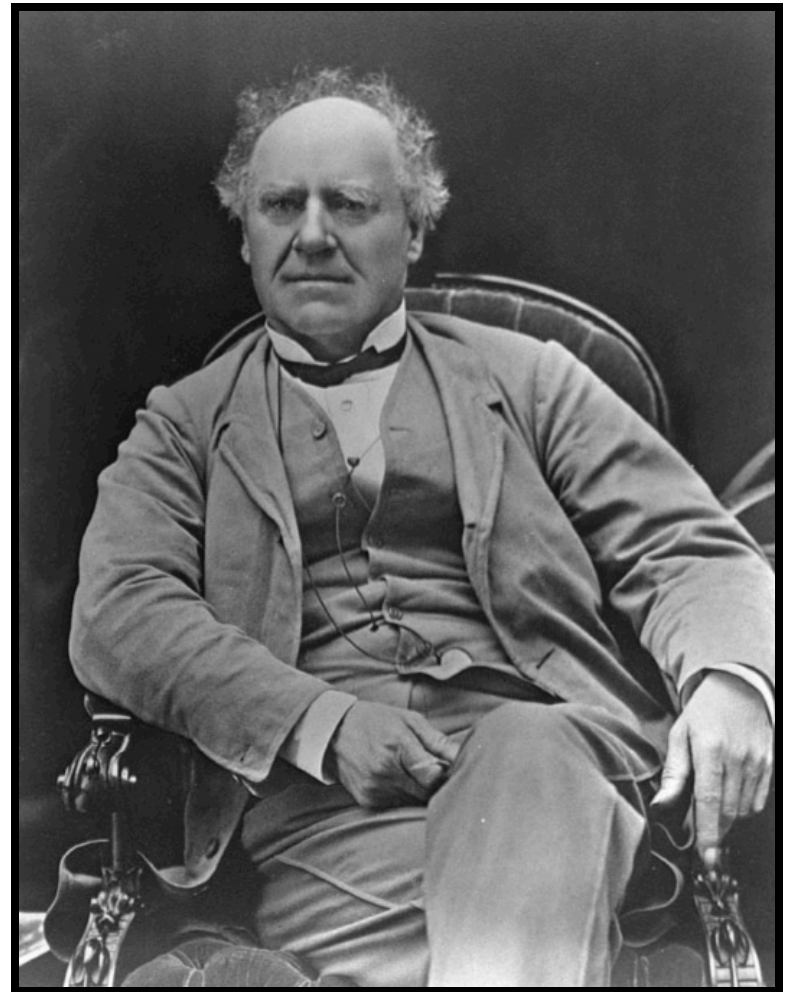
Joseph Howe's “Sell-Out”

Joseph Howe in London
- Colonial Office, 1868

NS Annexationist Mov't
- Howe a dedicated
Imperialist

“Better Terms” for NS
- NS Debt and \$ Grants
- Cabinet Seat for Howe

“Sellout”? US access to
fisheries under Treaty of
Washington
- Loss of autonomy



**Joseph Howe, Nova Scotia's
determined opponent of
Confederation.**

Maritime Holdouts: PEI and NFLD

PEI: “Railway? Us?” Irrelevant

- Preoccupied with domestic concerns - tenant farmers**

James Pope’s Island Railway

- Debt and union with Canada**
- Tenant Resolution, 1873**

Newfoundland - Atlantic world

- Britain & US; Southern Europe, West Indies, Brazil**
- Cdn Tariffs vs. Nfld Trade**
- Fenians? “Cdn deserts”**

At 12 o’clock noon, the Dominion flag was run up the flag staffs...and a salute of 21 guns was fired... So far as powder and metal could do it, there was for a short time a terrible din. But among the people who thronged the streets there was no enthusiasm.

Charlottetown *Patriot*