

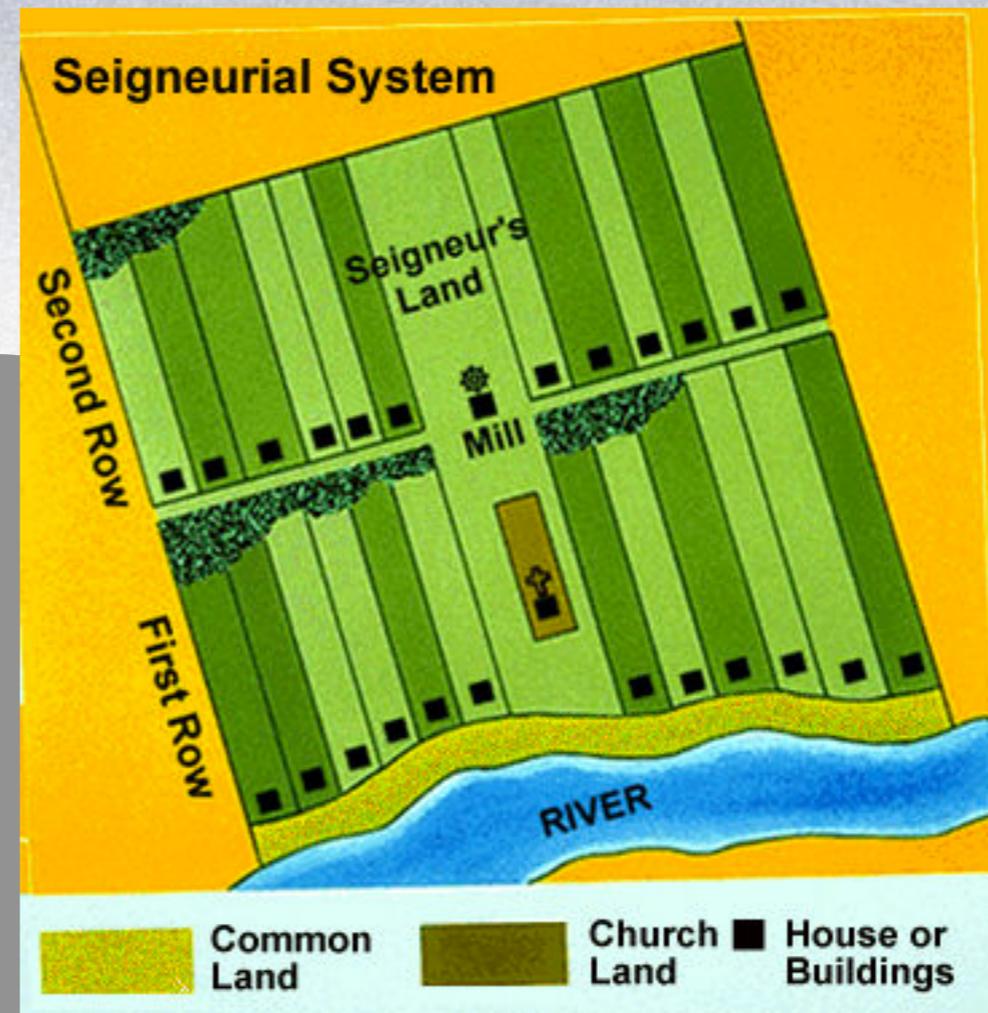
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Module 4: British North America

1791-1867

Social Groups

- Seigneurs
- Land owners
- Nearly all were French
- They had conservative ideas and clung to their privileges
- Often opposed the Legislative Assembly



Social Groups

- Small Businessmen
 - Storekeepers, General Merchants, and Tavern Keepers
 - Mostly French Speaking
 - Feared the power of rich businessmen
 - Tended to support laws that favoured trade and higher profits

Social Groups

- Common People
 - Farm workers, craftsmen, labourers
 - Most farmers were French, while English immigrants lived in the townships
 - Most were poor and opposed increases in taxes
 - Had little direct power

Pull Factors

- Land in the township areas
- Opportunity in the timber industry, work on canals and in the cities
- Liberty (right to vote)

Pull Factors

- A huge wave of immigrants
- 19th Century: hundreds of thousands of British people left the homeland. Over 1 000 000 come to BNA
- By 1867 though immigration and natural increase, Upper Canada (Ontario) had grown larger than Lower Canada (Quebec)

Pull Factors

- The population of what would become Quebec was over 25% English speaking by 1867
- What are some results (impacts) on Upper Canada growing larger than Lower Canada

Pull Factors

- Culture Changes
- More Protestants
- Economic Changes
 - Land into agricultural productions, because cut down trees to have more farm land
 - Timber trade got bigger due to the higher employment rate it was giving

The Rebellions of 1837/1838

- Definition : to take up arms against the lawfully constituted government
- In a revolution the rebels win, in a rebellion they lose



Causes of the Rebellion

- Patriotes (Lower Canada) and Reformers (Upper Canada) were influenced by:
 - Ideas from America and France revolutions
 - Ancient British traditions
 - No veto in Mother Country
 - Local conditions

Local Conditions: LC

- 1820s -1830s
- Resentment of English
- French Canadians resentment of new arrivals, especially the Irish Catholics who competed for the same jobs
- Cholera Epidemic 1832
- Hated the political and economic powers of the English speaking people and the prosperity of the farmers in townships

Local Conditions: LC

- Agricultural crisis
- Bad weather, soil exhaustion and subdivision of land led to declining wheat production
- Unable to pay rising rent and surplus of people wanting land, many farmers in the seigneuries were being kicked off the land

Political Cause

- Struggle for “democratic” institutions (the veto)
- Resentment over the governors veto and the power of the Chateau Clique in Lower Canada
- People wanted a REAL democracy

Patriote VS. The British Party

<u>Patriotes</u>	<u>British Party</u>
Liberal Bourgeoisie	Liberal Merchants
Individual freedom, freedom of press	Keep the government out of commerce (business)
Participation in political power	They want tax on Land Imperialists
They want to tax trade (would hurt merchants)	Supports of the British connection and the power of the governor
Anti-clerical (wanted the power)- opposition to the influence of the church on government	Quietly supported Ultramontanists
Mainly French Speaking	Mainly English Speaking

Growing Discontent

- The opposing parties quarrelled over appointment of the Speaker
- They fought bitterly over which language should be used in debates
- They could not agree on tax use for canals, prisons and other public works

Growing Discontent

- The Canadian majority were particularly opposed to the Legislative Council
- The members of the Council were appointed and mostly by the English
- They wanted members to be elected
- The Governor tried to compromise - added more Canadian members to the council

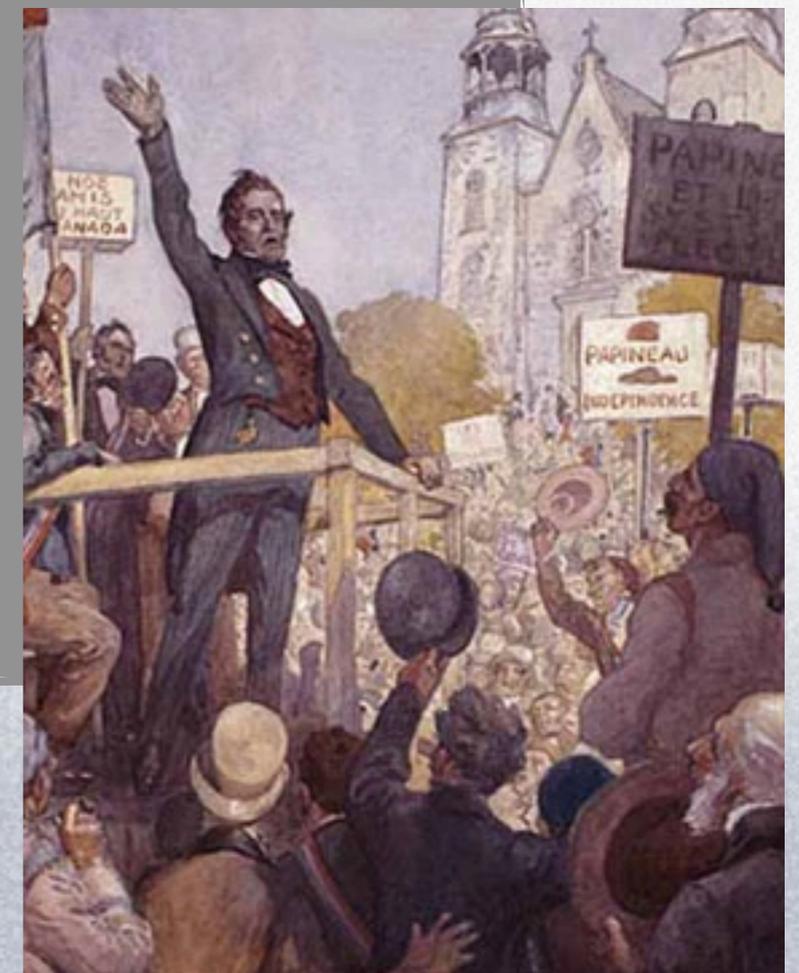
Steps to Bloodshed



- Protests and riots
- Protest- signs, sitting and yelling
- Riot - Burning, stealing, crazy, violent
- Secret societies - illegal activity - buying guns, threats to get money

Louis Joseph Papineau

- Leader of the Patriots (Reformers)
- He was a seigneur
- He became anti-clerical - the church had too much power
- Hated the British
- Submitted the 92 Resolutions



92 Resolutions

- 1834
- Document that listed the demands of the Patriotes
- No more veto (elect members of the council)
 - Would make the Council members responsible to the people
- No more Church powers (anti-clerical)
- Demanded that the Assembly have control over public spending
- Wanted more Francophones to be appointed to administrative posts in the government

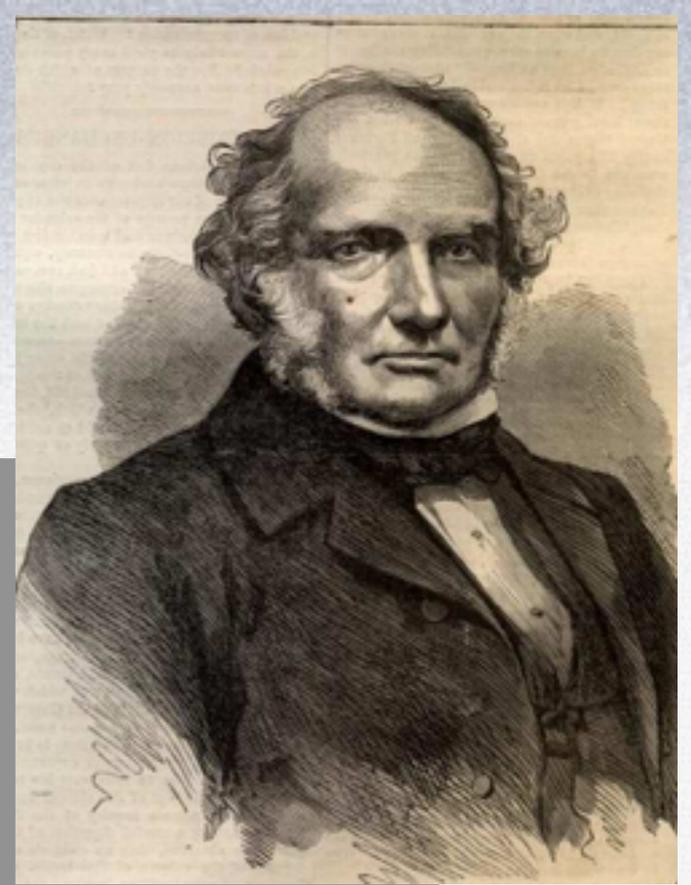
92 Resolutions

- Main Demand was RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT
- If ministers in the executive were chosen from elected members, they would be responsible to the people for their decisions
- If they did not make responsible decisions, they would be voted out in the next election
- The ministers would have to respond to the needs and desires of the people if they wished to stay in power

Papineau Wins Majority

- 1834 general election in Lower Canada
- Louis Joseph Papineau and his Reformers won 77 of 88 seats in the Legislative Assembly
- Over 90% of the people supported their demands
- The Political climate became VERY tense

Lord Russell



- In 1837, Lord John Russell (British Minister responsible for colonial matters) gave his answer to the 92 Resolutions
- His 10 Resolutions turned down most of the nationalists requests
- To make matters worse, he allowed the Executive Council to raise funds without the consent of the Assembly
- This response was seen as a provocation (an act which incites people to fight back)

Response?

- Papineau and the other patriote leaders organized “Popular assemblies” in the summer of 1837
- Some of these meetings were attended by thousands
- Some wanted to take up arms to fight for the cause
- Newspapers on both sides (British Party VS. Patriotes) (newspapers got the message out)
- Calls to boycott British goods (hurt the merchants by not buying their stuff)

1837

Timeline of the Rebellion

March: 10 Resolutions

May: Proposals to Boycott British Goods

July 25: Bishop Lartigue urges loyalty to British

August: Assembly refuses to pass the budget

October 23: 5000 people attend protest meeting

Nov. 6: Street fights in MTL between Gov't supporters and the Patriotes

Nov 23: Patriotes ambush British troops

Nov 25: Patriotes defeated at St. Charles

Dec. 6: Loyalists defeat Patriotes

Dec. 14: 200 Patriotes defeated at St. Eustache

1838

Nov. 7: Patriotes defeated at Lacolle

Nov. 9: Large Patriote force defeated at Odelltown

Why did the Rebellions fail?

- British authority had military professional soldiers
- Church refused sacraments to those who rebelled
- Patriotes had poor (perhaps) cowardly leadership
- Rebellion was strong in only a few regions of Lower Canada
 - Little active support outside the Montreal Area

Why did the Rebellions fail?

- Armed resistance in Upper Canada was short lived, thus the British could put full weight of forces on Lower Canada
- William Lyon Mackenzie was the leader of the Upper Canada rebellion

Durham's Report

- After a rebellion there is usually an inquiry to determine its causes. Some solutions are proposed in the report of the inquiry
- Lord Durham was sent to investigate the Rebellions of 1837-38



Durham's Report

- To reduce tension, he offered pardons to most of the political prisoners
- Eight Patriote leaders were sent to Bermuda in exile
- In his report, Durham observed that there were two rival “races” in Lower Canada
- The French and the English were in conflict

Lord Durham's Report

- He proposed several solutions.
- He felt the government should promote the gradual assimilation of the French
- Encourage more British immigration to Canada
- The two Canada's should be united, and have an English majority in the Assembly
- Recommended that responsible government be granted

Responsible Government

- How did responsible government work?
- The executive (or cabinet) has to have support or confidence of the elective assembly
- Cabinet members or ministers responsible for what happens in their ministries
- The governor MUST follow the advice of the cabinet

Responsible Government

- Durham felt the responsible government could only work if the French were assimilated
- To do this the English speaking Canadians needed a majority in the assembly

Act of Union

- The British responded to the report by giving BNA a new constitution. The Act of the Union
- They agreed that assimilation (and increased British Immigration) was a good idea
- HOWEVER they did not grant responsible government

Act of the Union

- Cause:
Rebellions of 1837-1838



Act of the Union

- Purpose: To assimilate the French

Act of the Union

● Measures:

- Upper and Lower Canada now one united province
- 1 United assembly with 42 members for each
- Canada East and Canada West
- 1 Legislative Council with an equal number of members
- Public debts combined - CAN West debt 12X greater than East
- Fixed Elections
- English Advantage - English the only official language

Act of the Union

- Success or failure?: FAILURE
- Why was it a success or a failure?:
 - Canadians did not cooperate
 - Responsible Government not given
 - French and English continue to not get along

Act of Union 1840

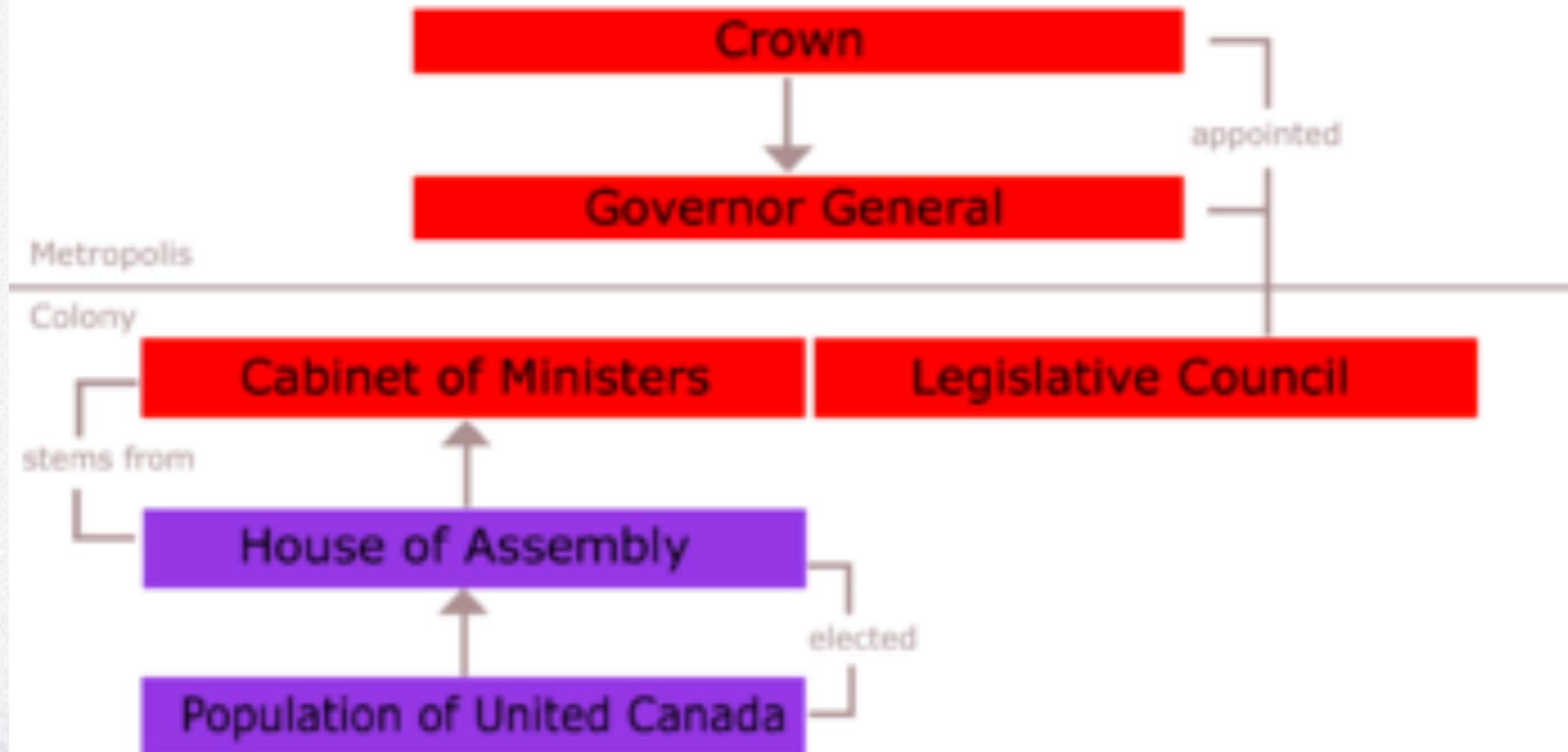
United Province of Canada

<u>Canada East</u>	<u>Canada West</u>
Old Lower Canada	Old Upper Canada
42 seats (or representatives)	42 seats (or representatives)
650 000 people	450 000 people
(at least) 12 English seats and 30 French seats	42 English seats

* English seats voted together *

Act of the Union 1840

United Canada (1848) Ministerial Responsibility



Political Changes

- The Act of the Union created a United Canada in which French Canadians were a minority
- It was intended that this should help to assimilate the French and favour economic growth
- After the rebellions, the extremists had gone. Political leaders with moderate views took their place

Baldwin and Lafontaine

- Even after the rebellions there were still people who wanted responsible government - they were called the Reformers
- The new system was not working well. In some areas of Canada East (LC) there was election rigging and violence (rigging = cheating)

Baldwin and Lafontaine

- In other areas (to the dismay of the British) French and English voted for each other and cooperated in other ways
- Louis H. Lafontaine (CAN East) and Robert Baldwin (CAN west) worked together for responsible Government an important precedent in Canadian politics
- Both men were Reformers, and realized if the French and English worked together they could win

Elections

- Could go for days
- Bribes were used
- Vote more than once
- Property qualification and the open vote
- If you were a landowner or owned a business worth more than a certain amount you could vote

Elections

- Voting was conducted in the open before the officials, candidates and neighbours

Gradual Movement

- Over the next few years, responsible government was gradually attained.
- Governor General Sir Charles Bagot allowed Baldwin and Lafontaine to choose the members of the Executive Council
- Then in 1848 Lord Elgin accepted the principle of responsible government
- With Responsible government the English and the French could work together for the good of all.
- Any useful laws were passed in the late 1840s and 1850s.
Now French Canadiens had some say. They now felt less threatened

Responsible Government is finally here!

- In the 1840s, Britain changed their attitude towards colonies. They were concerned by the cost of Mercantilism ending and Free trade coming in
- They saw no real harm in giving Canadians more internal power

The Test Case

- Rebellions losses Bill-1849
- The bill forgave all the rebels of 1837-1838 and gave compensation for damages
- English people in Canada East felt that this bill rewarded treason. They asked the governor not to sign the bill (which would make it a law) (ask him to veto it)

The Test Case

- Elgin signed it, in response a mob burned down the Parliament buildings in Montreal other english people sent letters to the USA asking them to take over BNA
- Too many English people, it seemed as if the rebellions had actually been won by the rebels (in the end the rebels got what they wanted)
- **HOWEVER** BNA now had true internal democracy for the first time

Liberalism

- In the 19th century liberalism meant freedom from the actions of Kings (government/state)
- For the Bourgeois French Canadians (Lawyers, Notaries, Doctors) this meant freedom from the British influence
- For the English of Lower Canada liberalism meant keeping the government out of the way of business and commerce

Role of the Catholic Church

- Catholic Church saw itself as the defender of French Canada - it didn't like the Patriotes and vice versa
- A distinctive English Canadian culture was developing. Loyalists, Late Loyalists, and the huge British wave were building this culture language and dialect, religion, music, food, etc.
- Most supported the British connection especially in LC as it protected them from the French Canadians

Economy and Development mid 19th Century

- Spread of small scale water powered mills and manufactories
- Rural and along creeks and rivers
- Transportation - canals and railways
 - canals enormously expensive
- Trading - Mercantilism to reciprocity
- Protected British market changes to free trade with the USA

Trading Policies

- Colonial protection - Mercantilism was a policy whereby the Mother Country bought the goods and resources of BNA
- Simply because we were a colony. In turn we bought goods from “Mom”
- On the other hand, we always had a market for our goods. On the other hand products tended to be more expensive

Protectionism

- British Colonies were protected in the early 19th century by Preferential Tariffs (favourable custom duties)
- Imports from the colonies paid very low or no customs when they entered Britain
- This big protected market was good for colonial producers
- So.. they supported protectionism (policy protecting certain products from foreign competition)

Onwards to Free Trade

- As Britain became the more industrialized country it wanted to change its trade policy
- British manufacturers wanted to be able to sell their cloth, engines, tools, and other products all over the world
- Free Trade or no customs duties on products was to their advantage
- Britain switched to Free trade policies in 1847

Onwards to Free Trade

- British colonies lost their advantages on the British markets; their products were no longer protected
- This resulted in a severe depression during which Montreal merchants faced bankruptcy
- Canada had to find new markets for its surplus goods (farm and forest products)
- To the south, huge markets were growing rapidly in the United States

Reciprocity

- BNA needed new markets so we turned to the large, dynamic, and growing economy to the south (USA)
- BNA and USA signed the reciprocity treaty in 1854, this allowed raw materials to flow between the 2 parties without custom duties being paid (tariffs)
- This was a HUGE benefit to BNA
- It lasted 10 years and proved to be very advantageous for Canadian producers because the American market was huge