

Module 1: The Formation of the Canadian Federal System Review

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Summary Part 1

In 1840, London adopted the Act of the Union which united Upper and Lower Canada into a single colony (The Province of Canada).

By 1840, the population of Upper Canada (952 000) was greater than the population of Lower Canada (890 000) and the English were the dominant language group. Due to the Rebellions of 1837-1838. The British Government was certain that a solution to discontent in Upper and Lower Canada could be achieved by assimilating the French. They chose to ignore true cause of the Rebellions, which was a lack of responsible government and freedom in the colonies; life was simply unfair and unjust

And so, in an effort to assimilate the French by sheer majority in population and political control in the Assembly, Britain passed another Constitution called the Act of the Union which united Upper and Lower Canada into one colony called the “United Province of Canada”

The new colony would have one government but be separated into two halves; Canada West (Ontario) and Canada East (Quebec)

Though the troubles of old did not go away just because the colonies were united. the main issue, a lack of democracy of freedom for the people and accountability for the government still existed.

Finally in 1848, Responsible Government (Democracy) was granted in the colony an soon after several British North American colonies would join together in a federal union to create the Dominion of Canada with Confederation in 1867.

Through thousands of new immigrants had been arriving in Canada during the early 1800s, there was a group of people leaving the colonies; Canadiens of Lower Canada and later Canada East were emigrating to the U.S by the thousands

Starting around 1830, times became difficult for Canadiens living on the farms of the St. Lawrence Valley in Canada East:

Due to an agricultural crisis where the land of the St. Lawrence had lost its fertility over time and overpopulation in the farms, thousands go young Canadiens found themselves without land or opportunity. There were few jobs in Montreal and so many went south to the USA for jobs in factories

The government and the Church were not happy with so many French Canadiens leaving the colony; it could put the future of the French language and culture in danger of assimilation

The Government and Church worked together to open up or “colonize” new lands in the Saguenay, Mauricie, Laurentians, and other regions of Lower Canada for French Canadiens to move to instead of the USA

Some did move to these new areas and try to make settlements, but the majority still left for the US

Despite the “Great Exodus” of French Canadiens leaving to the USA, the populations of English and French people had been growing in British North America. English areas such as Upper Canada and later Canada West grew mostly as a result of immigration. French areas such as Lower Canada and later Canada East grew mostly because of natural growth or births.

Aboriginal peoples of the St. Lawrence Valley had suffered greatly since the days of the French Regime. After dealing with wars, violence, disease and alcohol, there were only 5 000 aboriginals left in the St. Lawrence Valley. The rest had moved West to try and continue a traditional lifestyle or had simply disappeared as they became assimilated into European culture. This would make the beginning of the low point for Aboriginal peoples in Canada

After the elections of 1841, Reformers in Lower Canada and Upper Canada formed an alliance. This union enabled the Reformers to secure a majority in the Legislative Assembly in 1842.

The Reformers demanded the establishment of responsible government in the Province of Canada.

During this period, the Reformers passed laws that were favourable to French Canadians, to the discontent of many English Canadians.

Responsible government was granted in 1848.

Governor Elgin respected Responsible Government and did **NOT** veto the laws

the Tories (conservatives) became enraged and **BURNED DOWN THE PARLIAMENT IN MONTREAL**

As a result of this anger among political parties, no party was able to win a majority government through the 1850s. **THIS LED TO THE IDEA OF A FEDERAL UNION (BNA or BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ACT) OF COLONIES AND THE CREATION OF CANADA IN 1867**

The Parliament of the Province of Canada created Indian reserves in Lower Canada in 1851.

Summary Part 2

From 1854 to 1864, the Province of Canada experienced a period of ministerial instability.

In 1846, the United Kingdom abandoned its protectionist policy in favour of free trade. The Province of Canada had to find new trading partners.

PROTECTIONISM:

An economic policy that aims to protect the local (or national) economy against foreign competition

This usually is done by putting heavy tariffs or taxes on goods coming in from outside the country

Effects on Canada: Increased timber exports to Great Britain and increased port activities in Montreal and Quebec (**PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS**)

FREE TRADE:

An economic policy that encourages free circulation of goods in and out of countries with no tariffs or taxes

Effects on Canada: Reduced exports to Great Britain (Britain got products from other countries) and Canada had to search for new markets to sell its goods (USA....**RECIPROCITY TREATY**)

Canada signed a trade deal called the "**RECIPROCITY TREATY**" with the USA in 1854 which saved our colonies in the short term... but the US cancelled that treaty in 1865.

Colonies in Canada needed a solution that would save their economies. They decided to join together and create a country in the hopes of trading with each other and having more power to negotiate with other countries around the world. Therefore, the Dominion of Canada was created in 1867 with the BNA Act.

Canals were built to connect waterways allowing for goods to be transported from the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence River and on to the Atlantic Ocean for overseas trade

Railways were built all throughout North America to connect areas that did not have water access for transportation

ADVANTAGES: travel and transportation becomes very quick and more goods can be moved

In 1864, MacDonal, Cartier, and Brown formed the Great Coalition in order to try and resolve political deadlock in the colony.

During the Charlottetown Conference and the Quebec Conference, the representatives of the different colonies agreed on the principle of a federal union.

In 1866, the representatives of the British Colonies gathered at the London Conference to draft a bill and have it passed by the British Parliament.

In 1867, London adopted the British North American Act, which became the first constitution of the new Dominion of Canada. Four provinces formed the Dominion: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In the Dominion, powers were divided between a central (federal) government and provincial governments.

Summary Part 3

In the second half of the 19th century, the Canadian economy was in the first phase of industrialization.

First Phase: 1850-1900

Energy source: coal (smokestacks, dirty and polluting)

Beginning of the “division of labour” (taking the building of a product and dividing it into many small , specialized jobs to make production faster)

Mechanization (first uses of machines in factories to increase production speed)

Types of resources exploited (used): Timber, leather, dairy (butter & cheese), tobacco

Effects on society:

Development of “working class” (poor) neighbourhoods

Building and widening of canals

Increased building of railways and city trains (street cars)

The production of goods transitioned from craftwork to mechanization.

Businessmen invested capital in the means of production (factories, machines, and tools)

During the first phase of industrialization, the main sectors that developed were food, leather, textiles, tobacco, lumber, iron and steel.

Governments and businessmen financed the development of the transportation network, making it possible to improve the canals and develop the rail network.

The forest industry continued to be the driving force of the Canadian economy throughout the 19th century. The lumber industry experienced rapid growth.

Investors used hydraulic resources in the forestry regions, such as the Outaouais, Mauricie, and Saguenay.

Crop diversification and the development of the dairy industry transformed agriculture. The dairy industry dominated this sector at the end of the 19th century.

Summary Part 4

Workers started to join forces to demand better working conditions. In 1872, a federal law legalized unions.

Living and Working conditions:

Poor working class neighbourhoods developed and apartments were overcrowded and dirty

Pollution and crowding led to the spread of disease

Working conditions were also bad. Women and children were taken advantage of and paid less than men

Factories were poorly lit with little ventilation and dangerous machines

These poor conditions led workers to get together to fight for their rights. They organized themselves into **UNIONS** and would use pressure tactic like going on strike to fight for better working conditions, fewer hours, better pay, and for the government to create laws to protect them

The Catholic Church didn't like the French Canadian workers joining American Unions so the Church formed **CATHOLIC UNIONS**

Industrialization led to a rural exodus and urbanization.

During the late 1800s, thousands of French Canadiens left Quebec to go work in the mills of the Northeastern United States because there was no farmland (**OVERPOPULATION**) available in Quebec. Quebec cities did **NOT** have many jobs available and there were many jobs in the textile mills of New England

Due to this massive wave of emigration (to leave one place for another), migration was negative (more people left QC than came to QC)

The **GOVERNMENT TRIED TO KEEP FRENCH CANADIENS IN QC BY "OPENING" NEW AREAS OF THE PROVINCE FOR COLONIZATION** (Saguenay, Mauricie, and the Laurentians)

The majority of immigrants who settled in Canada came from the British Isles.

Women started demanding the right to vote, which they had lost in 1849.

The main jobs occupied by women were teacher, factory workers, and domestic servant. A number of women chose to become nuns.

The influence of the Catholic Church, inspired by ultramontanism, extended to all spheres of society.

A nationalism of survival was rooted in the desire to preserve French Canadian identity.

Anticlericalism opposed ultramontanism and advocated freedom of thought.

Many authors in the 19th century produced patriotic literature, related to a nationalism of survival.

Summary Part 5

Between 1870 and 1873, the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island joined the Dominion of Canada. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland chose not to join the Confederation. **JOHN A. MACDONALD** became the first Prime Minister

The settling of the West created tensions with the Metis population. Two uprisings, led by Louis Riel, brought the Metis into conflict with the Canadian Government.

The Red River Rebellion (1869-1870) led to the creation of Manitoba. The North-West Rebellion (1885) ended with the execution of Louis Riel.

As of 1871, the Canadian Government signed a series of treaties with the First Nations of the West in order to take control of their lands within a legal framework. The government also created reserves for First Nations.

In 1876, the Dominion of Canada adopted the Indian Act, which sought to assimilate Indigenous people. This act defined First Nations people as minors and wards of the state.

The economic crisis of 1873-1878 prompted the MacDonald government to adopt a National Policy to stimulate Canada's industrial development.

NATIONAL POLICY:

Idea was to develop a domestic (Canadian) market. Make people buy Canadian goods first by putting tariffs on foreign goods

Three goals of National Policy

1. Create domestic market through tariffs
2. Build a Trans-Canadian Railway
3. Increase immigration to Western Canada

* REMEMBER: R.I.P *

In 1880, the Canadian Pacific Railway company was created. The transcontinental railway was inaugurated in 1885.

In the years that followed, the MacDonal government adopted various measures to attract immigrants to the West.

Honore Mercier, premier of Quebec from 1887 to 1891. defended French Canadian nationalism and provincial autonomy. He organized the first interprovincial meeting in the city of Quebec, in 1887.