



Bank of Nova Scotia, Havana main branch, 1915

Other Canadian financial institutions interests also took a strong interest in Cuba from the beginning of the 20th century. Canadian insurance companies, Sun Life, Imperial Life, Confederation Life and Manufacturers Life soon became the dominant sellers insurance in Cuba. This concentration of banks and insurance companies defined Canada's commercial presence in Cuba, and provided the Canadian component of the Anglophone ABC (American/British/Canadian) colony in Havana until the Cuban Revolution.

Small Canadian farmers, merchants and businessmen also migrated to Cuba in the first decade of the 20th century to new rural areas opened up for sugar and agricultural development, in good measure by Van Horne's railroad. One concentration of Canadian settlers was in Las Tunas, where a prominent Toronto lawyer and entrepreneur, W.

Perkins Bull, bankrolled a land development company and named the town founded beside Van Horne's new railroad after his son, Bartle Bull. The Canadians departed Bartle during the First World War, but the town retains its Canadian name to this day. Canadians also migrated along with many Americans to the Isle of Pines where they helped established a vigorous North American colony. William Mills, from Bloomfield, Ontario, arrived in the Isle in 1901 and, through his Isle of Pines Steamship and Shipping Company, promptly established the primary transportation link to the rest of Cuba. While many of these Canadian settlers left Cuba during the Depression, some, like the Mills family, stayed on well into the 1950s.



Cashiers at Sun Life office, 1954