

the union, and a few years after the reunion for the convenience of doing business, either the French or English language could be used in debates or in papers printed for the use of Parliament. The leading departments of the government were represented both by a French Canadian and a British Canadian. There was an Attorney-General East and an Attorney-General West. The Executive government was also recognized in duplicate, as for instance, the Baldwin-Lafontaine, the Hincks-Morin, the MacDonald-Cartier and the Brown-Dorion governments, and later it was assumed to be but a just practice in all matters of legislation (a practice not always followed) that no act specially affecting one province should become law unless approved by a majority of its own representatives, thus giving rise to the term "double majority."

Although the Union Act of 1841 renewed the partnership of the two races, it did not altogether suppress the contentious spirit of early days. Either the field of operations was too limited or the partners were wanting in the spirit of conciliation and self-restraint without which no partnership could be successful. But amid all the contentions which disturbed its labours, the intermingling of the two races in a common Parliament and the better facilities for inter-communication between the people of the two provinces greatly improved their personal and political relations and even when feeling ran highest, so far from suggesting a dissolution of the partnership both parties felt that the Union of 1841, which with all its unrest had resulted so happily for Canada, should be extended rather than dissolved. In this spirit it was proposed to increase the firm originally consisting of two members by the addition of the adjacent provinces that had a common interest with Upper and Lower Canada in developing the trade and commerce of the country. The only question to be settled in the event of such a union was how to preserve an equitable proportion of influence in the new partnership. This was happily adjusted by giving to each province representation in the new Parliament according to population, with a fixed representation in the Senate which could be reasonably depended upon to protect the individual interests of all the provinces, and in order that there might be no quarrel about local matters which concerned individual members of the firm only, it was agreed that such measures should be entirely excluded from the general partnership. To make this agreement binding it was embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament and signed by Her Majesty the Queen as the British North America Act of 1867.