



Out west, in the meantime, exploration and the fur trade still went hand in hand. From Lake Athabaska, Alexander Mackenzie, in 1789, reached Great Slave Lake and paddled north to the Arctic, down the great river now bearing his name. But he sought the "Western sea". In 1793, travelling west up the Peace River, Mackenzie reached the Rockies and after a journey of "inexpressible toil" arrived on foot at the coast of the Pacific—the first white man to span the breadth of Canada.

During the Napoleonic Wars in Europe, the demand for timber in England, which was cut off from the continental supply by blockade, gave the North American provinces, especially the Maritimes and Quebec, a new industry—logging. Pine and spruce were soon to supplant fur in importance to the people of Canada. The ship-building industry also began to develop rapidly, chiefly in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Between 1815 and 1850 a second great wave of settlers came to Canada from the British Isles. Ireland, in the throes of the potato famine, was the greatest source of these immigrants. In all, approximately 800,000 arrived—more than double the total population of all the British colonies in North America in 1800.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

In both Upper and Lower Canada during the early part of the nine-

teenth century, there was a growing resentment against the arbitrary conduct of provincial governors who often acted in direct opposition to the will of the elected assemblies. Actual revolt came in 1837. William Lyon Mackenzie, in Upper Canada, and Louis Papineau, in Lower Canada, led the uprisings. These were rapidly quelled but produced an historic result. John Lambton, the Earl of Durham, was sent from England to investigate the administrative needs of the troubled colony.

Durham's report, presented to the British Parliament in 1839, recommended the extension of full self-government to the colonies, the legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada, and the ultimate union of all British

North America. The whole design of Canada's future political development was foreshadowed in it.

The Act of Union, 1840, partly implementing Durham's recommendations, joined Upper and Lower Canada. Although the new legislation did not specifically change the position of the appointed executive, its position was, in fact, soon changed. The Governors of Canada were instructed to call to the Executive Council only those who had the confidence of the people. Here lay the germ of responsible government.

Lord Elgin, the Governor in 1849, dealing with an acutely contentious bill, decided to endorse the policy of the elected majority and rejected the demands of the opposition that he refer the matter to the Imperial Parliament. His decision was fully sustained by the Colonial Office in London. The principle of responsible government has never since been challenged in Canada. Nova Scotia, an older colony, had similarly gained responsible government in 1848.

CONFEDERATION

The first real step toward a union of the British North American colonies was taken in 1864 at Charlottetown, in Prince Edward Island. The three eastern colonies had called a meeting to discuss the possibilities of a maritime federation. The two Canadas, united since the Act of Union, and inspired by the vision of a transcontinental Canada, asked

and were granted permission to state their views before the conference.

The conference decided that, in the event of confederation, Canada's system of government would be patterned upon the British model—with an elected House of Commons and an appointed Senate. At a second meeting of the colonies, at Quebec later in the same year, final resolutions recommending a federal union were drafted. A central federal government and provincial governments were outlined, their respective powers and duties defined. The federal plan was then taken back to the colonies for discussion, and all except Prince Edward Island (which later joined in 1873) approved federation.



Halifax, capital of Nova Scotia.



Statue of Evangeline, early Nova Scotian heroine.



Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, is wide and well lit.



Victoria, capital of British Columbia.