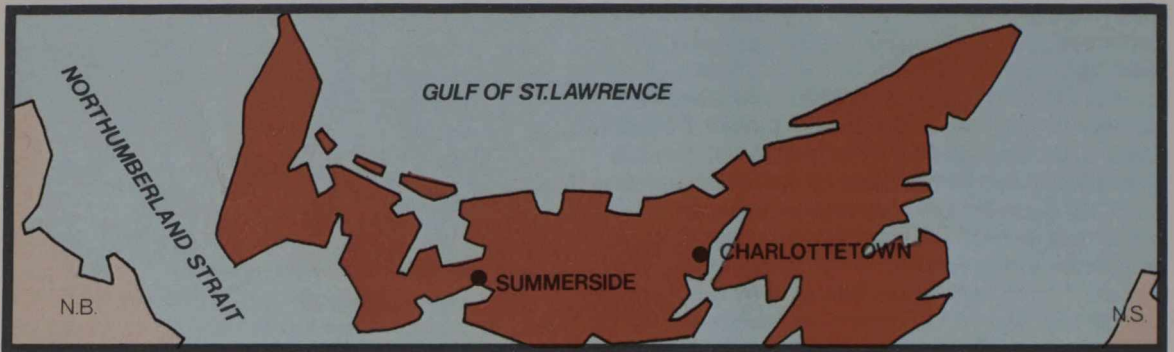


Prince Edward Island



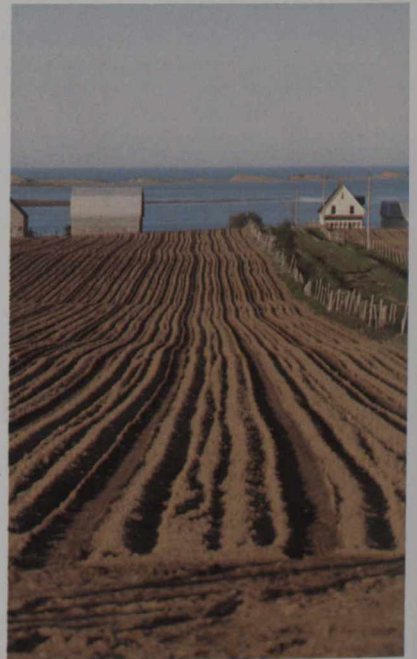
The smallest of Canada's provinces, Prince Edward Island is one of the country's most scenic areas and a popular tourist destination. At 145 miles long and up to 34 miles wide, it is almost twice as big (2,184 square miles) as Rhode Island (1,245 square miles).

During the 19th century it was trilingual—English, French and Scottish Gaelic—and it enjoyed relatively good times. In the words of A.H. Clarke, "The texture of the soil and the climate were almost ideal for the cultivation of hay, oats and potatoes."

P.E.I. didn't join the Canadian Confederation until 1873, and there are still those who say that the Confederation's National Policy encouraging east-west railroads and north-south tariffs caused the province's later economic slump. Then, as now, the Island's principal trade exchange was north-south, to and from the United States.

It may be more realistic to blame the passage of time, technological change, and the Island's remoteness from markets. Whatever the reasons, there has been a century of hard times. The young men and women of the Island have emigrated to other places (it is said with accuracy that the principal export of the Atlantic Provinces is brains), and the people who stayed behind have often found life difficult. In 1947 the provincial government took over the Island's meat-packing plants during a national strike, and one public official is reported to have said, "If labourers are not satisfied to work eight hours a day for pay and four hours out of loyalty to his employer, they should seek employment elsewhere."

Things got better after that but not spectacularly so, and in 1966 the federal government designated the whole island as an undeveloped area. In recent years there has been an intensive and suc-



A thriving industry in Prince Edward Island is tourists, who are drawn by the lovely beaches, such as this one, left, at Cavendish on the north shore. Right, a plowed field in French River. Agriculture has been declining in relative importance economically but is still a major occupation of Islanders.