

descent) and the need for a railway which the British promised to finance, led New Brunswickers to change their minds. Leading the "unionist" movement was Samuel Leonard Tilley, who succeeded in creating a public sentiment favourable to the concept of union.

The entry of New Brunswick into Confederation did not bring the expected upswing in the provincial economy, but with the completion of the Intercolonial Railway, linking Montreal to Halifax, the province had its promised railway.

### *Politics*

The roots of New Brunswick politics can be found in its Loyalist and French-Canadian traditions. Descendants of the British and the French-speaking Acadians have formed the major political parties since Confederation in 1867.

In the earliest days, as in many other provinces, election campaigns were raw and spirited, with charges and counter-charges of corruption, bribery, nepotism and patronage. When provincial politics assumed a degree of order and discipline after 1900, two dominant parties emerged. The Liberals and Progressive Conservatives have governed New Brunswick political life ever since. The New Democratic Party, its predecessor, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and the *Parti*

*Acadien*, representing Acadian nationalist sentiments, have emerged, but no member of any of these parties has ever been elected. No other Canadian province has shown such loyalty to its oldest parties.

### *The economy*

While the province still relies on its forests for pulp and paper production, commercial activity in agriculture, fishing, mining and tourism have broadened the province's economic base. New Brunswick relies to a great extent on international trade. Ice-free ports, proximity to American markets and cultural and economic ties to Western Europe have made exports very important to the provincial economy. Approximately one-quarter of the gross domestic product is derived from the export sector.

Today, New Brunswick's gross domestic product is in the order of \$5 billion. Almost a quarter of this is generated by exports. More than 50 percent of New Brunswick's international sales go to the United States. Another 27 per cent go to the European Community (of which 8 per cent is exported to Britain) while the remainder is shipped to South America or the West Indies. The major exports are zinc ores or concentrates, lumber, woodpulp, printing paper, paperboard and shellfish. The province's reliance on agriculture,