

principle to that of the United Kingdom", based upon the rule of law. The federal plan was designed to meet the problems imposed by Canadian ethnic and geographic divisions. This apparent autonomy did not extend, however, to Canada's management of its relations with other nations: external affairs were still controlled by the government of the United Kingdom.

Canada expanded rapidly in size. The vast territory of the north-west was acquired by purchase from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869. (The three Prairie Provinces were to be carved out of this territory: Manitoba in 1870, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905). In 1871, the Pacific colony entered Canada as the province of British Columbia. Prince Edward Island followed suit in 1873. In 1895 Canada acquired from Great Britain the Arctic regions of the North, and the geographic outline of the country was finally completed in 1949, when Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province.

The Emergence of a Sovereign Nation

Confederation made possible national development on a new scale. Completion of the first Canadian transcontinental railway,

Regina's new housing developments shade imperceptibly into Saskatchewan's bald prairie.



Edmonton, Alberta's capital city and centre of its oil boom.

the Canadian Pacific, in 1885 opened the way for rapid expansion.

At the time of Confederation the west still was largely frontier: there was a scattered population, chiefly concerned with manning the fur-trading posts. The railway brought a growing influx of agricultural settlers from eastern Canada, the British Isles and the United States; and at the turn of the century new settlers poured in from continental Europe. In the decade between 1901 and 1911, nearly two million immigrants were added to the country's population of about five millions.

The lumberjacks, shipwrights, and fishermen of Canada were being rapidly outnumbered by settlers tilling the broad farms of the prairies, producing a new Canadian staple—wheat. At the same time, protective tariff policies were adopted to foster the growing industrial economy.

Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, by his "National Policy" of tariffs, transcontinental railways, and western settlement, set the economic and political pattern for an expanding nation. In addition, he first voiced the objective, later realized, of complete national autonomy within the framework of the British Commonwealth.