



Part of the City of Halifax, Canada's greatest Atlantic seaport.

The desire of the "Loyalists" for representative government, shared by other immigrants who came in search of free land, was reflected in the Constitutional Act of 1791 which established popular assemblies. Canada was divided at the Ottawa River into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada (roughly the present Ontario and Quebec), each with its elected legislature. Although the provincial Governors, with their appointed Executive Councils, still retained control, the first step toward democratic administration had been taken.

Meanwhile, in the west, exploration and the fur trade went forward together, stimulated by "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay" and, after 1763, by the North West Company, a partnership of Montreal fur-trading houses in competition with the Hudson's Bay Company. From Lake Athabasca, Alexander Mackenzie, associated with the North West Company, reached Great Slave Lake in 1789, and paddled north to the Arctic, down the great river now bearing his name. But he still 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 Pacific Coast. He was the first white man to span the breadth of Canada. Twenty years later Lord Selkirk established a small settlement in the Red River Valley near modern Winnipeg.

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.

In both Upper and Lower Canada during the early part of the nineteenth 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 Joseph Papineau, in Lower Canada, led the uprisings. These were rapidly quelled but produced an historic result. John Lambton, 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 granting of responsible government to the

Responsible Government

Montreal city and harbour from the air; in the background the Jacques Cartier Bridge over the St. Lawrence River.

