

up by the tide of new arrivals. Then they would have little voice in the debate that would determine how and when the colony proposed to join the Dominion of Canada. Indeed, when the Hudson's Bay Company was on the point of relinquishing control of its territorial holdings, a rebellion broke out. Before sovereignty could be transferred to the Canadian Parliament, a provisional government under Louis Riel, a popular *Métis* leader, was formed. The rebellion was symptomatic of the emotional climate in the colony.

On July 15, 1870, Manitoba officially became a province of Canada.

With improving economic conditions, an increase in the price of wheat and the completion of the trans-Canada railway which united British Columbia on the Pacific coast with the Maritime provinces along the Atlantic Ocean, the population of Manitoba grew rapidly. The fertile lands of Manitoba's river valleys attracted immigrant farmers like a magnet. Extension of the province's boundaries, first in 1881 and again in 1912, gave the province its final shape.

The economy

Manitoba's economy today is buoyant and diversified. It encompasses a wide range of activities from farming to

aerospace. With a gross domestic product of almost \$9.5 billion and 460,000 employed workers, the province is enjoying a period of moderate prosperity.

Manitoba is not one of Canada's richest provinces. It does, however, have a well-educated, expanding labour force and growing agriculture, mining and manufacturing sectors.

The service sector is the largest area of employment for Manitobans. Approximately 125,000 people, 30 per cent of the labour force, are employed in community, business and service trades. The second largest employer is the wholesale and retail trade. Manufacturing and transportation rank third and fourth respectively. Agriculture stands fifth.

Among goods-producing industries, manufacturing is the most important activity in terms of dollar value. Factory shipments were worth about \$3.4 billion in 1978, double the value of the second-place construction sector. There was some \$1.5 billion worth of construction in the province during 1978. Agriculture and mining were third and fourth in 1978 with gross productions of \$1.2 billion and \$550 million.

Manufacturing

The largest single segment of the Manitoba economy is manufacturing. Food and beverage shipments of \$1.1