

the 1830s to bypass the Niagara Falls, and some railway lines were being constructed to connect landlocked centres with ports. A significant manufacturing industry was created by the production of mechanical reapers and other tools for the wheat harvests. A fresh-water fishery was established on the Great Lakes and, in the north, trapping and the mining of copper, silver and iron ore was conducted. The land over the Laurentian Shield, unsuitable for farming, yielded great forest products and northern lumbering became a staple trade.

Bytown, the centre of the lumber trade, was renamed Ottawa and, in 1867, became capital of the new Canadian Confederation. A city of 15 000, its location was as appealing as York's had been, because of its safe distance from the American border and because it bordered the French and English societies of Quebec and Ontario. It was connected with Lake Ontario at Kingston by the Rideau Canal, which was built after the War of 1812.

The Welland Canal, linking Lake Erie with Lake Ontario and the Rideau Canal, provided a protected route for trade as well as defence. The St. Lawrence River was an essential part of the route until railways overtook water routes as trade arteries. The major construction of railway lines occurred during the

1850s and the 1860s and they determined the success or failure of many Ontario towns.

Toronto, well served by both water and rail, dominated the province's industry and commerce and remained its intellectual and political centre. London prospered on the rich wheatlands of western Ontario, and Hamilton competed for the flow of grain and trade on Lake Ontario. There, iron and metal works, precursors of today's giant steel plants, grew and prospered.

The Confederation of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1867 brought industrial and political advantage to Ontario. The extension of the railways, promised to the Maritimes and planned for the West, favoured Ontario's trade and industrial growth, as did the development of the St. Lawrence. Confederation gave Ontario the largest share of federal votes because of representation by population and also provided for separate provincial legislatures, giving Ontario a strong voice in its own affairs.

Agriculture

Ontario's agricultural base is broader than that of any other province. Some 100 products, ranging from grain and livestock to tobacco and grapes, are grown. The fertile soils of the southwest, the St. Lawrence