

The Powers of the Provincial Legislature

92. In each Province the Legislature may exclusively make Laws in relation to Matters coming within the Classes of Subject next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,

1. The Amendment from Time to Time, notwithstanding anything in this Act of the Constitution of the Province, except as regards the Office of Lieutenant Governor.
2. Direct Taxation within the Province in order to the raising of a Revenue for Provincial Purposes.
3. The borrowing of Money on the sole Credit of the Province.
4. The Establishment and Tenure of Provincial Offices and the Appointment and Payment of Provincial Officers.
5. The Management and Sale of the Public Lands belonging to the Province and of the Timber and Wood thereon.
6. The Establishment, Maintenance, and Management of Public and Reformatory Prisons in and for the Province.
7. The Establishment, Maintenance, and Management of Hospitals, Asylums, Charities, and Eleemosynary Institutions in and for the Province, other than Marine Hospitals.
8. Municipal Institutions in the Province.
9. Shop, Saloon, Tavern, Auctioneer, and other Licenses in order to the raising of a Revenue for Provincial, Local, or Municipal Purposes.
10. Local Works and Undertakings other than such as are of the following

Classes: —

- (a) Lines of Steam or other Ships, Railways, Canals, Telegraphs, and other Works and Undertakings connecting the Province with any other or others of the Provinces, or extending beyond the Limits of the Province;
- (b) Lines of Steam Ships between the Province and any British or Foreign Country;
- (c) Such Works as, although wholly situate within the Province, are before or after their Execution declared by the Parliament of Canada to be for the general Advantage of Canada or for the Advantage of Two or more of the Provinces.
11. The Incorporation of Companies with Provincial Objects.
12. The Solemnization of Marriage in the Province.
13. Property and Civil Rights in the Province.
14. The Administration of Justice in the Province, including the Constitution, Maintenance, and Organization of Provincial Courts, both of Civil and of Criminal Jurisdiction, and including Procedure in Civil Matters in those Courts.
15. The Imposition of Punishment by Fine, Penalty, or Imprisonment for enforcing any Law of the Province made in relation to any Matter coming within any of the Classes of Subjects enumerated in this Section.
16. Generally all Matters of a merely local or private Nature in the Province.

2. Education is given exclusively to the provincial legislatures in section 93.

DID YOU KNOW?

Amor de Cosmos: the assumed name of William Alexander Smith, which means "love of the world." De Cosmos was a traveller, gold rusher, and photographer before he entered politics in the 1860s. He would eventually become premier of British Columbia.

While British Columbia was not officially present at the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences, people in the colony were not indifferent to Confederation. Western supporters of Confederation, such as Amor de Cosmos (then a member of Vancouver's Legislative Assembly) did attend the events. Moreover, most Westerners believed that a

railway link to central Canada would foster growth and development of their region. The great Northwest, which was controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company, was bought by Canada in 1867—but no one bothered to consult the Native peoples, including the Métis, who lived there. This aspect of Canadian history will be more closely examined in later chapters of *Horizons*.

ACTIVITIES

- In what key way did Canada's approach to achieving nationhood differ from that of the United States?
 - Would you say that the new Dominion of Canada was truly independent? Explain your answer.
- Look at the image on page 54. According to it, what was the class and social status of the people present at the Charlottetown Conference? How are women portrayed? Based on what you have studied, would you paint a different picture? Explain your answer.
- Create a Confederation time line that includes important events leading up to the proclamation of the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.
- Do a PMI chart on the sections of the BNA Act featured in this chapter.

CONCLUSION

On July 1, 1867, Canadians celebrated their new Dominion in style. Communities all across the new provinces organized parties and concerts. Fireworks shot into the sky, bands played, and crowds cheered speakers who promised a glorious future for a nation that would one day take its place among the great nations of the world. Plans were already in the works to bring the Northwest and British Columbia into Canada. Many hoped that the objections of the two hold-out Maritime colonies could be overcome. As Canada's first prime minister, John A. MacDonald had initiated a national policy that would establish Canada's infrastructure and industrial base, forever changing the old colonial relationship with Britain.

Yet the new nation had some old problems. Soon the Métis made it known that they violently opposed plans that deprived them of land and rights. Trans-provincial and transcontinental railways were extremely expensive, and as they were built, corruption crept into the very highest levels of government. Long-standing disputes between French and English Canada did not vanish, and remain unresolved to the present day. Still, Canadians, who had forged a country through compromise, had embarked on a new, exciting enterprise. Today, Canada ranks as one of the world's most prosperous and democratic nations, with a good record for tolerance, social responsibility, and peace. Truly, Victorian Canadians, enthusiastic and naive as they were, had left a great legacy to future generations.

SUMMARY ACTIVITIES

1. Historians tend to specialize. Some study economic history; others study political history; some are interested in military history; others study social history. What kind of history makes up the first section of this chapter? Make a list of things that a social historian would focus on. Make another list for one of the other areas of specialization in history.
2. Make up a constitution—real or imaginary—for the governing of a small community, club, or organization.
3. Create a dialogue between an American president who is in favour of Manifest Destiny, and a Canadian, such as John A. Macdonald, who is opposed to the idea.
4. In a small group, develop an advertising campaign, with posters, a slogan, a song, and other materials, which you feel might have influenced the delegates to the Charlottetown Conference.
5. Research Canadian history from 1837 to 1867. Based on what you discover, build a portrait gallery of important people from the period, with captions explaining their importance.

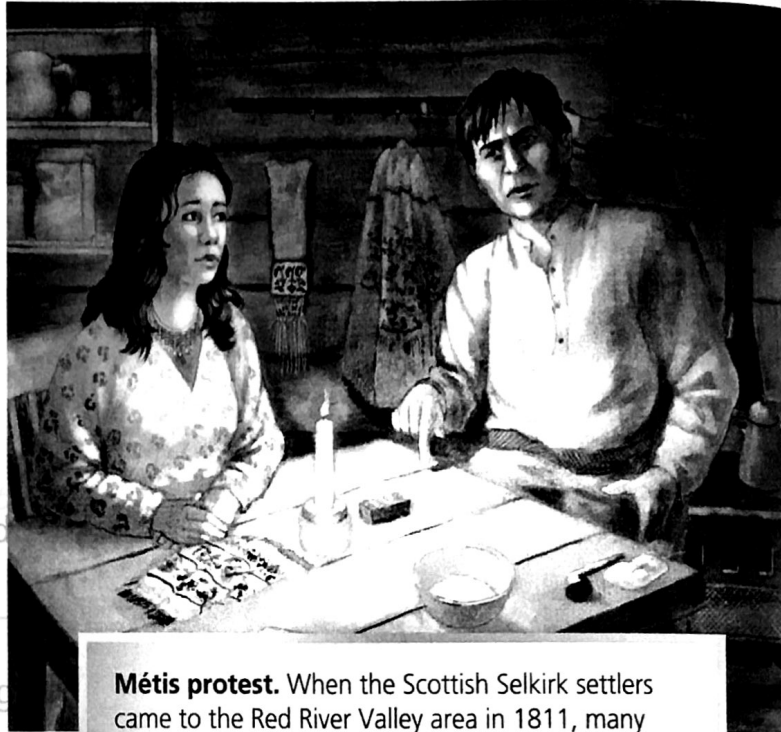
ON YOUR OWN

1. Canada has a strong party system, and almost every adult can vote. Does this make Canada's democracy function as well as it could, or would many smaller parties be preferable? In an oral report, describe how you think government should operate to best serve the people it represents.
2. Create a "Victorian Evening" program for either upper- or lower-class people. List the events, including entertainments, for the evening. Create a "guest list" with the names and occupations of the people you want to invite. Remember that women will usually have no occupation outside the home.

UNIT II

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

The geography of western Canada has played a great role in the history of its people. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the prairie had been home to the Assiniboin, Cree, Sarcee, and Blackfoot for more than a thousand years. The North American bison numbered 60 million, and the prairie was covered with a variety of grasses—many now extinct. In the Western Mountains and on the Pacific Coast, the Native peoples made the forest their home, using its wood to build their homes, boats, and totems—even to make clothes and utensils. A mild climate lessened the struggle for survival and encouraged the development of a complex social life.



Métis protest. When the Scottish Selkirk settlers came to the Red River Valley area in 1811, many Métis were alarmed. They balked when the settlement leader tried to stop them from selling pemmican to the North West Company. As a result, the NWC and the Métis started to harass the settlers, hoping they would leave. Here, two members of a Métis family discuss their plan of action.



Mighty bison. Both the Plains peoples and the Métis hunted bison, which numbered more than 60 million until the mid-nineteenth century. The systematic slaughter of the bison by the Canadian and American governments, and the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, forever disrupted the herds. Bison now remain as a protected species in parks such as Elk Island National Park, Alberta.

Moo Into this milieu came the Europeans—as fur traders and, later, as permanent settlers. In present-day Manitoba, the French fur traders married into Native families, forming a unique culture—the Métis. Métis culture dominated the Red River Valley area until the arrival of hundreds of Scottish settlers in 1811.



In 1860, a new wave of Upper Canada immigrants came to Red River, contributing to rising tensions. The climax of these conflicts was the Red River Rebellion, led by Louis Riel, and the creation of the province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

Meanwhile, British Columbia was undergoing its own changes. Two gold rushes—one along the Fraser River, and one in the Cariboo region—caused wild population fluctuations as immigrants from the US, Britain, Europe, and China poured into the area. As fast as some people came, they left, or so it

(Kenora)

Bitter disappointment. Tens of thousands of Chinese immigrants came to British Columbia to help build the railway. They often toiled without knowing that the cost of their supplies and room and board was being deducted from their wages.

Policing the Northwest. The Canadian government established the North West Mounted Police in 1873. The force was created to police an area the government considered to be unstable. During the early part of the nineteenth century, unscrupulous fur traders made the Northwest notorious for violence and alcohol.

seemed. Economic woes forced the union of the colony of Vancouver Island and British Columbia into the new colony of British Columbia, which joined Confederation in 1871. Then, things began to look up. Vancouver became the terminus for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the province started to diversify its economic base.

As the century progressed, the Canadian government worked hard to open up the West for settlement. Between

1870 and 1877, under the leadership of John A. Macdonald, it concluded seven treaties with the western Native peoples so that “immigrants could come and fill up the country,” as one government official put it.

Western settlement and protective tariffs for farmers were just two of Macdonald’s ideas for Canada. The third was perhaps the most ambitious—the building of a transcontinental railway to link east and west. This was the future Canadian Pacific Railway. The CPR required the labour of tens of thousands of workers, including 17 000 Chinese immigrants, who laboured in the difficult terrain of British Columbia. Completed in 1885, the railway became a political tool for the Canadian government to finally quash Louis Riel during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885.

