

# HOW DID CONFEDERATION IMPACT CENTRAL CANADA AND THE MARITIMES?

Even though Ontario, Québec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick had united to become the Dominion of Canada in 1867, the economy and culture of each province remained unique. Consider what you know about the economy, geography, language, and religion of each region. Do you think all of these regions benefited from Confederation?

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Confederation gave the government of Canada the power to set national economic goals. New factories produced everything from shoes and textiles to glass and furniture.

## THE GROWTH OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN CENTRAL CANADA

After Confederation, manufacturing industries in Ontario and Québec grew. Small villages became larger factory towns where people moved to find work. Retail stores expanded to sell the products from the new factories. By 1871, the Distillery District in Toronto was shipping millions of gallons of products to Québec, the Maritimes, the United States, and even Brazil. A distillery is a place where liquor is made. Compare **Figure 3.29A** and **Figure 3.29B**. What changes do you see in the Distillery District from before Confederation to 29 years after Confederation?



**FIGURE 3.29** (A) This painting, *Gooderham & Worts 1855* by William Armstrong, shows the Distillery District in Toronto before Confederation. (B) This painting, *Gooderham & Worts 1896* by A.H. Hider, shows the Distillery District 29 years after Confederation. **Analyze:** How do these paintings show growth in Toronto?

## THE COLLAPSE OF INDUSTRY IN THE MARITIMES

Like Ontario and Québec, the Maritime provinces experienced a period of industrial growth in the years following Confederation. With access to the ocean, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick imported cotton, sugar, tea, and spices from the southern United States, the Caribbean, and Asia. These products were distributed across the country. Smaller communities along railway lines also grew, building factories to produce textiles, glass, and rope.

Look back at the three goals of Macdonald's national policy in **Figure 3.21**. The new tariffs created a tax that made it expensive to import goods from other countries. Now, read **Figure 3.30**. What effect does politician J.C. Pope predict the tariffs will have on Prince Edward Island?

“However much the National Policy may promote the interests of the Dominion [Canada] as a whole ... so far as [Prince Edward] Island individually is concerned it means largely increased taxation with no corresponding advantages. They have no manufactures of any importance, and must necessarily import many of their manufactured articles from Montreal and Ontario, and for their English goods they have to pay in the way of duties [tariffs] 50 per cent more than formerly [before].”

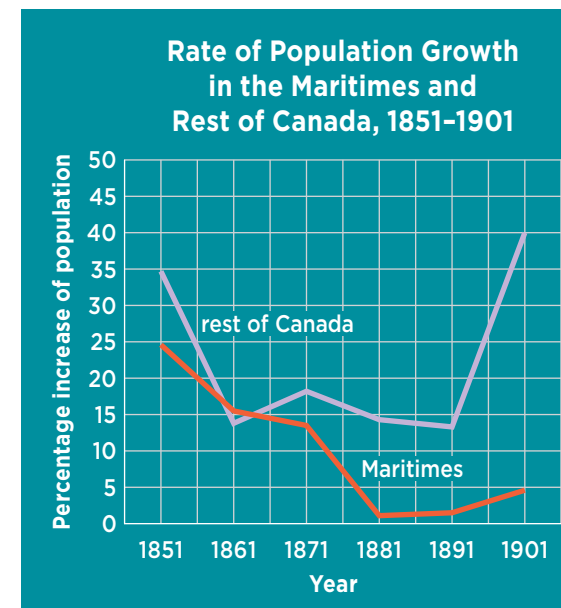
— J.C. Pope, Prince Edward Island politician

**FIGURE 3.30** This is an excerpt from a letter Pope wrote to Macdonald in 1879 after the national policy tariffs were introduced. **Analyze:** What reasons did Pope give Macdonald to explain why the national policy would not help Prince Edward Island?

Examine the graph in **Figure 3.31**. What does it tell you about the population changes in the Maritimes in the years following Confederation?

By the end of the 1880s, manufacturing in the Maritimes was in trouble. Transportation of goods to the rest of Canada was expensive.

Overproduction, or producing more products than are needed, resulted in competition from companies based in Ontario and Québec. Soon, manufacturers either went out of business or sold their companies to their more successful competitors. Maritimers began leaving the region to move to Western Canada and the United States. Western Canada includes what we know today as the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.



**FIGURE 3.31** This graph shows by what percentage the population was increasing in the Maritimes and the rest of Canada from 1851 to 1901. **Analyze:** In what years do you see a turning point for the population growth in the Maritimes?

## SOCIAL CONFLICTS

Tensions existed between Protestants and Catholics in Canada long before Confederation. After Confederation, these tensions intensified. Many people in Ontario wanted Canada to keep close ties with Britain and adopt English and Protestantism as the official language and religion for the entire country. In Québec, many inhabitants did not feel ties to Britain and wanted to protect the rights of French-speaking and Roman Catholic Canadians.

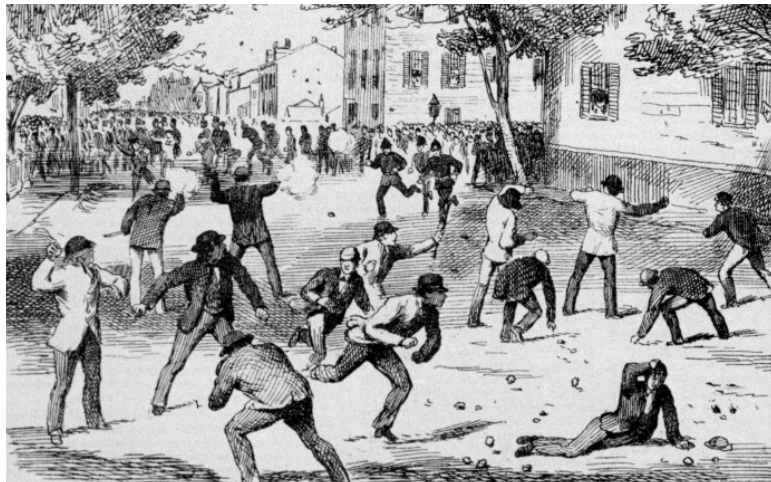
How might these social tensions create conflict in Ontario and Québec?

### THE JUBILEE RIOTS

Catholic Pope Pius IX had declared the year of 1875 a jubilee, or celebration, year. To celebrate the jubilee, Catholics organized processions through the streets of Toronto. Some groups and individuals opposed the celebration. As you read in Chapter 1, the Orange Order was a Protestant organization that influenced politics and policing in the second half of the 1800s. The Orange Order and Toronto mayor Francis Henry Medcalf asked Catholic archbishop John Lynch to cancel the jubilee events. A representative for the archbishop refused to cancel the events. He promised that they intended their celebration to be quiet and peaceful.

Look at **Figure 3.32**, which depicts the outcome of the jubilee processions. These events were later referred to as the Jubilee Riots, a series of conflicts in 1875 between Protestants and Catholics in Toronto. What does the image tell you about the relationship between Catholics and Protestants in Ontario at this time?

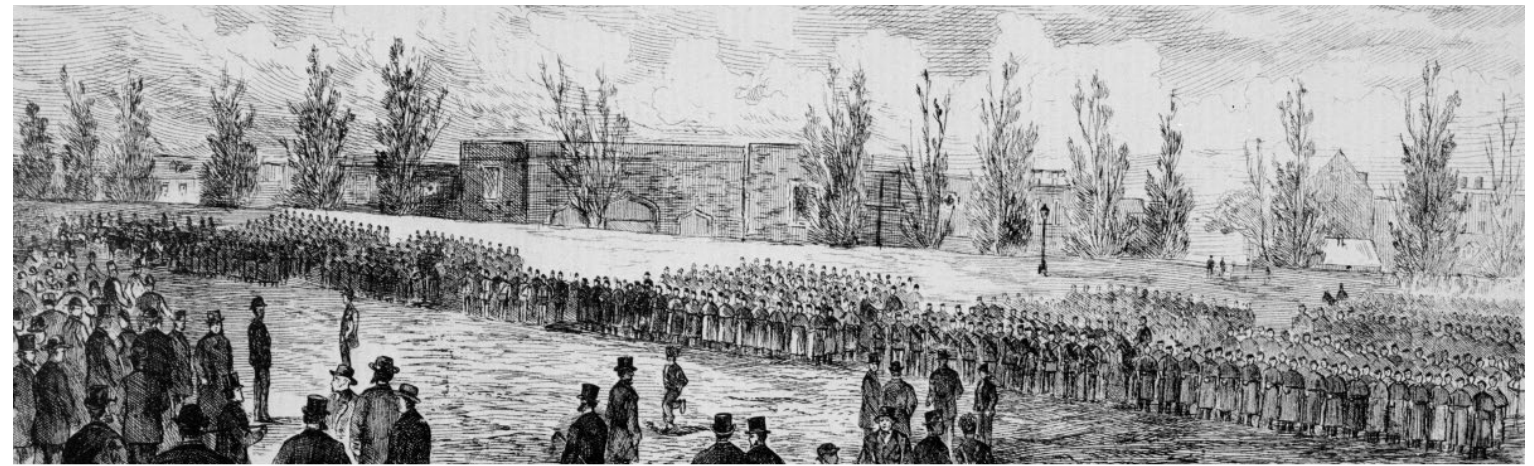
**FIGURE 3.32** This illustration, created in 1875 by an unknown artist, depicts the Jubilee Riots in Toronto. **Analyze:** How does this image help in understanding the severity of the Jubilee Riots?



**FIGURE 3.33** This is an excerpt from *Hamilton Times* on October 4, 1875. **Analyze:** Why does *Hamilton Times* call on the majority to respect the rights of the minority?

“Only so can we have permanent peace between our people; for with a Protestant majority in Ontario and a Roman Catholic majority in Quebec, unless the majority in each protects the rights of the minority, an endless series of retaliatory [revenge] acts will mark the future of the two Provinces.”

— *Hamilton Times*



**FIGURE 3.34** This illustration by an unknown artist, entitled *The Volunteers Assembled on the Champ de Mars [The Guibord Burial]*, is dated November 27, 1875. **Analyze:** How does this illustration help to show Guibord’s significance in Canadian history?

### THE GUIBORD AFFAIR

On November 16, 1875, about 1200 militiamen and soldiers accompanied the burial party of Joseph Guibord in Montréal. This was the second attempt made to bury his body. His casket was even encased in cement to deter vandalism. An illustration of the final burial day is shown in **Figure 3.34**. Why would soldiers accompany the burial party and why would so many people attend Guibord’s funeral?

Guibord was a Catholic who belonged to a group of Liberals called the *Institut Canadien de Montréal*. When Guibord died in November 1869, pleas were made for a Catholic burial, but they were denied. This is because the Catholic Church believed that the *Institut Canadien de Montréal* challenged its authority. The Catholic Church declared that no member of the group would be allowed to receive a Catholic burial. Guibord was buried in a Protestant graveyard as a temporary solution. After five years of court battles led by his widow, Henriette Brown, Canada’s highest court ruled in 1874 that Guibord had the right to be buried according to his faith. This decision angered many Québec Church supporters because it suggested that the Canadian courts were higher authorities than the Church. When Guibord’s remains were being moved for a Catholic burial on September 2, 1875, an angry Catholic mob stopped the burial party.

The second burial attempt was successful. Bishop Bourget immediately declared that the burial site was no longer sacred, or holy, ground. The Québec government also reacted. Under Confederation, Québec’s government had the power to create laws to protect Canadian beliefs and distinct way of life. It passed a law that gave the Catholic Church sole authority to decide who may be buried in a Catholic cemetery. The law still exists today.

### CHECK-IN

- CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE** How did Confederation and the national policy result in decline in the Maritimes while other parts of Canada prospered?
- HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** How was the Guibord Affair a sign that Québec would be a distinct part of Canada that would remain independent in many ways?