

Gold = make \$ by trading or finding gold
Glory = getting fame/victory for your country
God = spreading Christianity

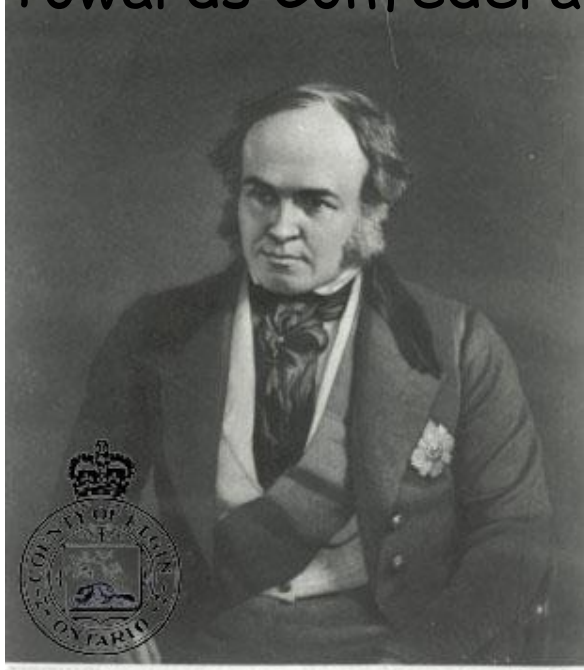
**Colony = settlement
ruled by a parent
country**



Towards Confederation

- As we learned in Ch. 1 the Rebellions of 1837 resulted in the Durham Report, and that the Canadas were joined by the Act of Union in 1840.
- Durham had also recommended responsible government (self-government).
- Fear US and France might take over colonies
- Economically, a lot of people favoured the old idea **mercantilism**, which defined the colony's economic relationship to the home country.
- However, Britain's economic relationship with the colonies was changing.
- With the repealing of the **Corn Laws** in 1846, Britain moved away from giving special trading **privileges** such as low duties on products from the colonies and wanted to move towards free trade—it wanted to buy wheat, flour, and other products at the lowest price, and from any country.
- Subsequently, Canada's economy went into a depression.

Towards Confederation*



In 1847, Britain named Lord Elgin governor of the Canadas. Lord Elgin was Durham's son-in-law.

- The colony was to become Britain's economic partner and would cease to be Britain's responsibility.
- From Britain's standpoint this would be an advantage as it was expensive to govern, defend, and financially support the colonies.
- 1849, the elected—and reformist—government of Canada passed a bill giving financial compensation to anyone, including the rebels who had lost property during the rebellions. This outraged anti-rebel forces that felt that treason (p. 75) was being rewarded.
- Even Lord Elgin was again the Rebellion Losses Bill. But under responsible government the governor had no right to veto a bill: he had to sign it into law. People were outraged and the violence escalated into a full-scale riot, which culminated with the burning of the parliament buildings.
- Elgin's signature had laid the foundation for a new form of government for the Canadas—democracy.

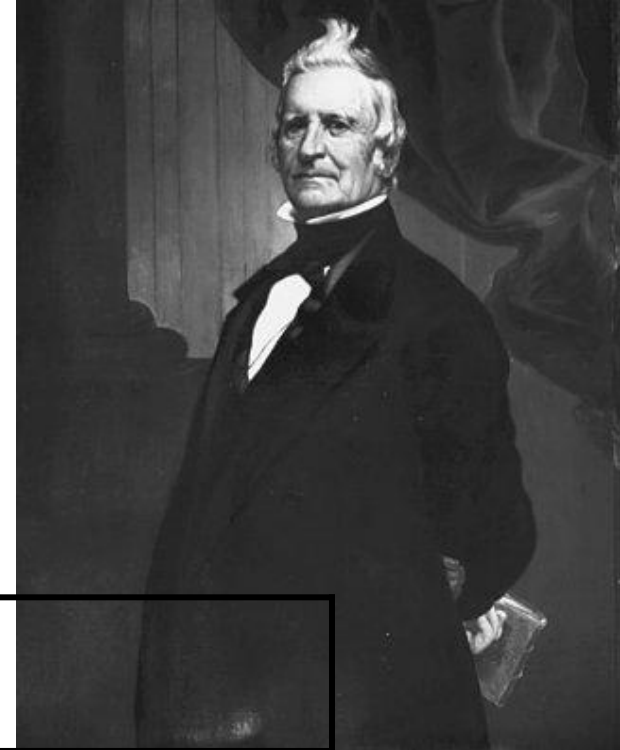


The Advantages of Confederation-Fishbone Activity



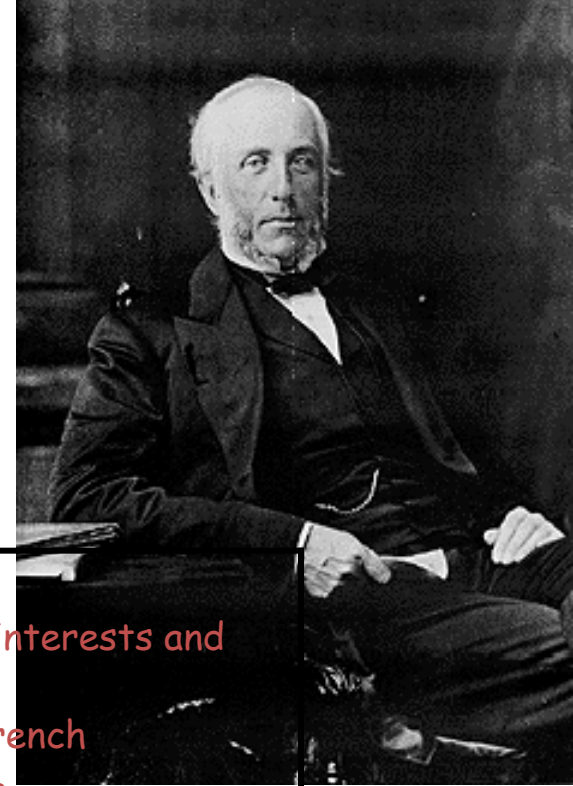
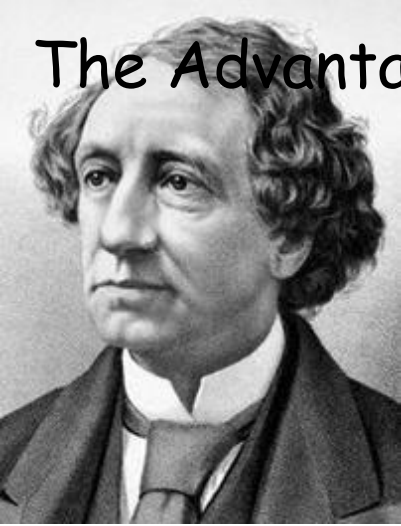
1. **Economic**—tariffs and trade barriers would be abolished and colonies could trade freely.
2. A strong central government could build an intercontinental railway that would link the colonies for purposes of trade and **defence**.
3. The **railway** would open up an ice-free port in Halifax for the central colonies, and would provide a central market for Maritime goods.
4. The railway could extend to the Northwest as far as the **Pacific**.
5. In the West, Confederation would ensure that British Columbia and Rupert's Land **would not be annexed** by the United States who felt that **Manifest Destiny**, the idea of the United States including all of British North American, was only a matter of time.
6. The **American Civil War** (which began in 1865, heightened the US threat. When the war ended in 1865, the powerful North had more soldiers than the combined population of the British Colonies, and many felt that it would retaliate the British support of the South during the war by invading Canada.
7. Confederation would **improve the way the colonies were governed**→Would lead to parliamentary system that we have today with MPs and decisions being made on a political party basis.

The Advantages of Confederation



Party	Leader	Represented in/Predominant Ideologies
Parti Rouge	Louis-Joseph Papineau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑩ Canada East ⑩ Small, radical party ⑩ Attracted French speaking farmers and business people opposed to English commercial interests <p>Favoured an American-style government, and hated the Act of Union</p>
Parti Bleu	George-Étienne Cartier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑩ Canada East ⑩ Focus on the economic development of Canada east ⑩ Protection of French-Canadian rights ⑩ Working relationship with Catholic Church ⑩ Wide support in the province <p>Wanted to work with Canada West to achieve goals as long as English Canada did not threaten French interests</p>

The Advantages of Confederation



Clear
Grits

George Brown

- 10 Canada West
- 10 Radical party that defended English-Canadian interests and attacked corruption in government.
- 10 Brown had a strong dislike for Catholics and French
- 10 Worked to make the province more democratic
- 10 Supported representation by population, which meant that the number of members an area could send to the legislature would be determined by the number of people in the riding. This idea was violently opposed in Canada East, as the French-speaking population was much smaller than the English-speaking population in Canada West.
- 10 .

Tories

John A.
Macdonald

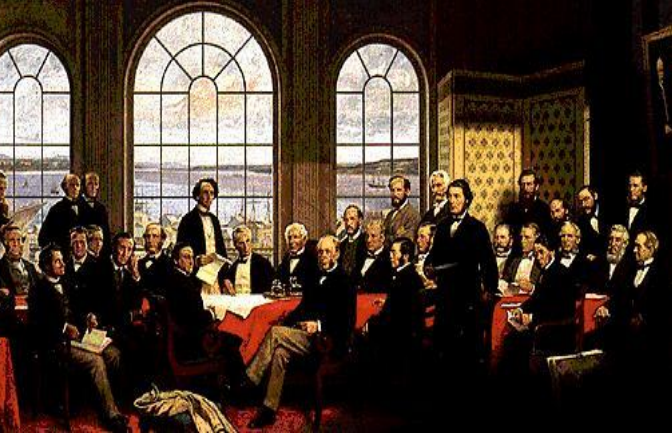
- 10 The middle ground in Canada West
- 10 Macdonald ~ less democratic but more shrewd than Brown.
- 10 Macdonald joined the Liberal-Conservative parties to form government

The Advantages of Confederation cont'd



Another barrier to good government was the so-called **"double-majority"**. In order to pass a bill in the Legislative Assembly, there had to be a majority in both the Canada East and Canada West sections of the assembly, instead of a simple majority. French or English voted against, or worked against, important bills that the other side wanted passed, particularly when the bills concerned schools, religion, or language.

Confederation Achieved



It may have been portrayed as a lofty political goal, but Canadian Confederation was actually more “deal” than “ideal”, and the colonies would join only if they received favourable terms.

Macdonald's idea of a strong national government and limited powers for provincial governments did not please many colonial politicians. People who lived outside of central Canada were not eager to be ruled by a government in central Canada—a sentiment that enjoys some popularity today.

The Maritime provinces—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland—regarded themselves as mature, independent colonies that had a shared “Atlantic” identity.

They also had responsible government and independent trading relationships with Britain and United States. Newfoundland did not have any trade with Canada and would not benefit from a union. In addition a railway would not benefit provinces like Newfoundland and P.E.I.

However, the **Reciprocity Treaty**, which had allowed goods to pass into the US duty-free, ended in **1866**. Britain's repeal of the Corn Laws had put a damper on trans-Atlantic trade. Moreover, the development of steam and steel technology seriously threatened the Maritime shipbuilding industry. Macdonald has to show that Confederation would resolve some of these concerns.



The Conferences

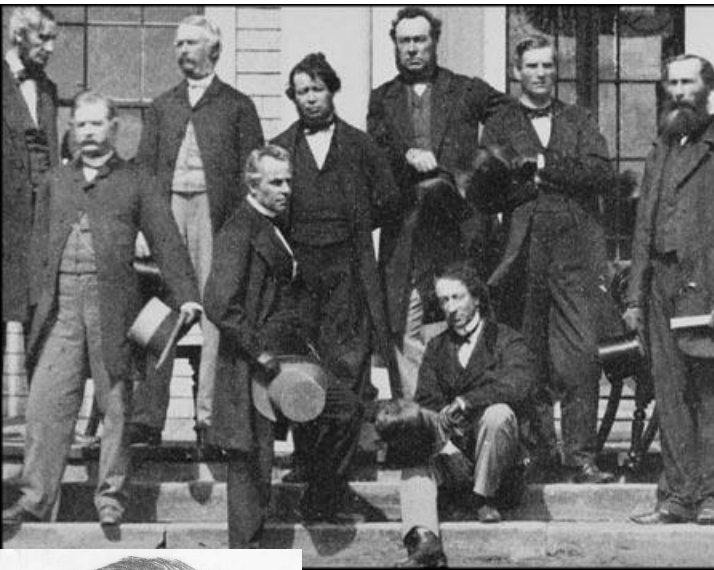


- We have looked at some of the problems facing Canada in the 1860s, including a depression in economy, fear of annexation by the US powered by the Fenian raids in 1866 (read p. 83), the Maritime loss of a favourable market in Great Britain due to the repeal of the Corn Laws.
- In addition between 1849-1864, twelve different governments had been in power. Many politicians viewed Confederation as the only solution to the above crises.
- Even George Brown agreed to work with Macdonald and Cartier in what has been called the "Great Coalition"—first to save the government of Canada, then to try to unite the colonies. The next step towards Confederation was a series of meetings known collectively as the "conferences."

Charlottetown (P.E.I) Confederation

1864

- Maritime colonies planned to discuss a Maritime union.
- Accompanied by the land speculator and railway builder, Alexander Tilloch Galt, the three members of the Great Coalition (Brown, Macdonald, and Cartier) asked to join the discussion to present their plans for Confederation.
- They were so convincing that Samuel Tilley (New Brunswick), Charles Tupper (Nova Scotia) and Edward Whelan (P.E.I) all agreed to work out the details at another conference at Quebec. Newfoundland also attended the conference but its voters were not enthusiastic about Confederation.



Mr. Galt



Sir Tilley



Mr. Tupper



Mr. Whelan

Quebec Conference 1864



- The delegates planned the birth of a new nation. They decided that provincial governments should retain many powers. This made the nation a federation. In the end, the Quebec Conference produced seventy-two resolutions—statements on government—and a blueprint for Confederation.
- Each of the proposals had to be debated and approved by the legislature of each colony because they all had responsible government. There was opposition on issues from railway building to the powers of Ottawa, the proposed capital. Joseph Howe, of Nova Scotia, and A. A. Dorion, of Quebec, were opponents of Confederation. One of the most inspiring speakers for union, Thomas D'Arcy McGee was eventually assassinated, probably by a Fenian.
- Although all the delegates to the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences were men, they were accompanied by their families. Families were a force that helped to build a "sense of communal solidarity": among participants who were divided by language, region, and political beliefs. Native peoples were absent from both conferences.
- In the end, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada decided to join together as one nation, and to ask Britain for permission to do so. In 1866, British Parliament passed the British North America Act, creating the Dominion of Canada.

<http://s6ot8ga.edu.glogster.com/john-hamilton-gray/>

Who is missing from the talks? - Most important group: **Aboriginals**, but also women and other minorities!

The British North America Act: Canada's Constitution 1867



- How was the British North America Act, Canada's constitution, different from the constitution of the United States?
- The BNA Act was based on the Quebec Resolutions, written by Canadians in Canada, and it became the constitution (p. 85) of the new Dominion. However, the BNA Act recognized the supreme authority of the monarch in these sections.
- Canada would have a federal, or national government—the Parliament of Canada—and a government in each of the provinces—the provincial legislatures.
- While BC was not officially present at the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences, people were not indifferent to Confederation. Amor de Cosmos (a member of Vancouver's Legislative Assembly) did attend the events. Furthermore, Westerners believed that a railway link to central Canada would foster growth and development of the nation. The great Northwest, was bought by Canada in 1867 from the HBC—but no one bothered to consult the Native peoples, including the Métis who lived there.