

# CHAPTER 1

1840-1896

*Development of  
Canadian federalism*

# PART 8

## **National Policy & Migration**

# **National Policy**

# Economic crisis of 1873

- Economic activity slowed down in Europe in 1873. The impact was felt in Québec and Canada, especially between 1874 and 1879.
- **The Dominion of Canada experienced an economic depression:**
  - Companies struggled to stay afloat
  - Unemployment rose
  - Wages fell
  - People lost confidence in financial institutions
  - The price of raw materials, like wheat and wood, dropped.
- **John A. Macdonald's answer to the depression:** **THE NATIONAL POLICY**

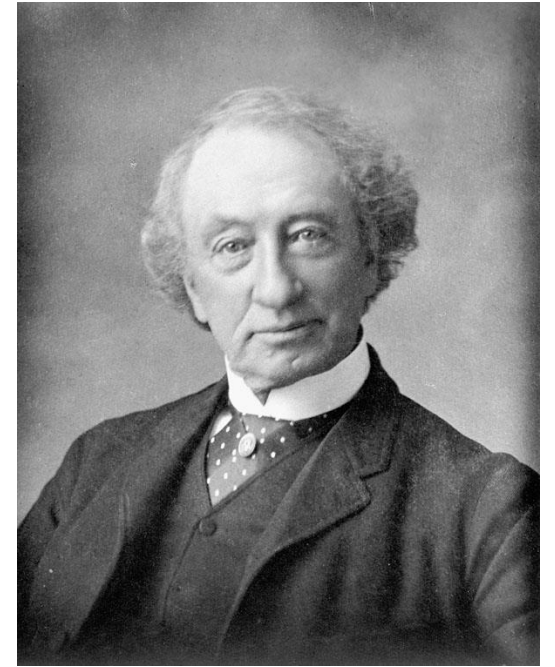




**First Prime Minister of Canada: John A. Macdonald, Conservative Party  
(1867-1873, 1878-1891 – died in office)**

# The National Policy (1879)

Adopted by **John A. Macdonald's** Conservative Party.



## GOALS:

- 1) To revive industrial development in Canada
- 2) To protect Canadian industries from American competition
- 3) To increase settlement in Western Canada in order to develop land and the domestic market.





**Increase customs duties  
(import taxes/tariffs)**

**Helps to finance the  
construction of**



**Railways (CPR)**

**Encourage settlement in the  
west**



**Immigration**

**Forms market for  
Canadian goods**

## **NATIONAL POLICY (1879)**

A MECHANIC'S HOME



UNDER THE NATIONAL POLICY.

NO WORK, NO MONEY.



UNDER A FREE TRADE OR REVENUE TARIFF.



### 3 main components of the National Policy



#### 1) Increase customs duties on imported products

- Macdonald imposed a **protectionist tariff policy** to lessen the harm done by the strong foreign competition, especially from American companies
- Taxes on imported goods increased by 25-30% until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Results:

- Goods manufactured abroad were more expensive. This gave Canadian consumers a reason to buy Canadian-made products instead
- The policy protected new industries from foreign competition in order to stimulate their growth
- It was also a way for Canada to increase revenue to pay for the railways.

## 3 main components of the National Policy

### 2) Expansion of the railway network

- Construction of a transcontinental railway linking the entire country, from the east coast to the west coast – built by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) company
- Allowed settlers to move in the “empty” lands in the west
- Construction spanned from 1881 to 1885 with many financial and technical challenges along the way (close to bankruptcy, Rocky Mountains, etc.).

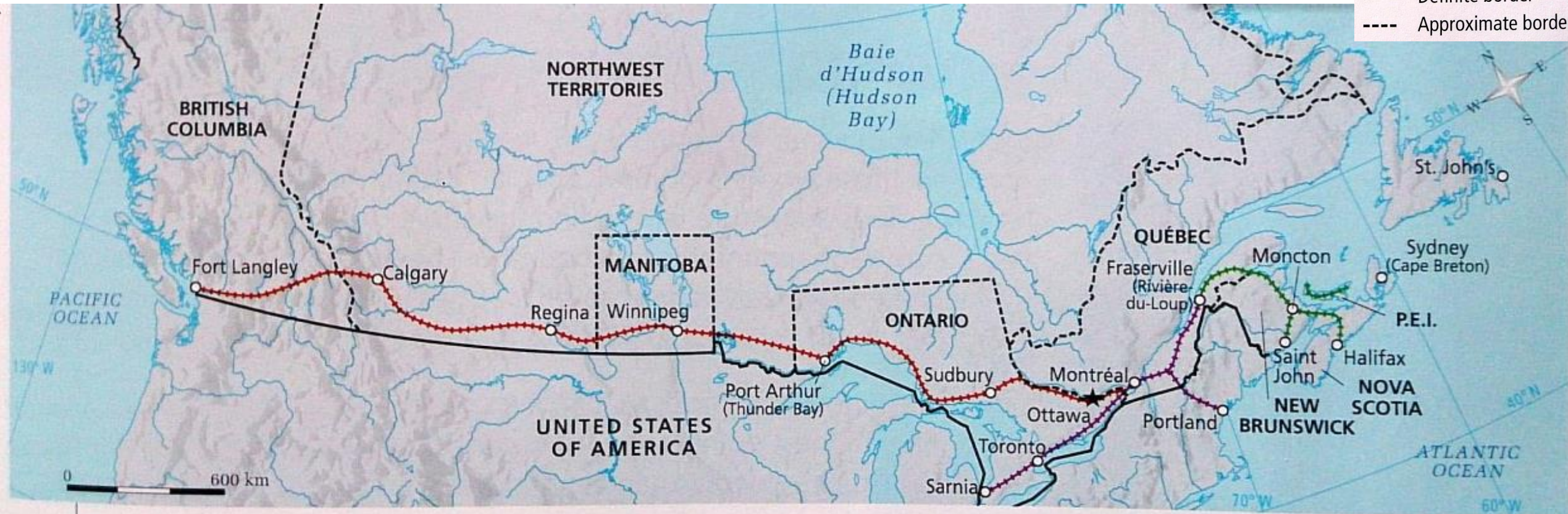




# The rail network in Canada (1885)

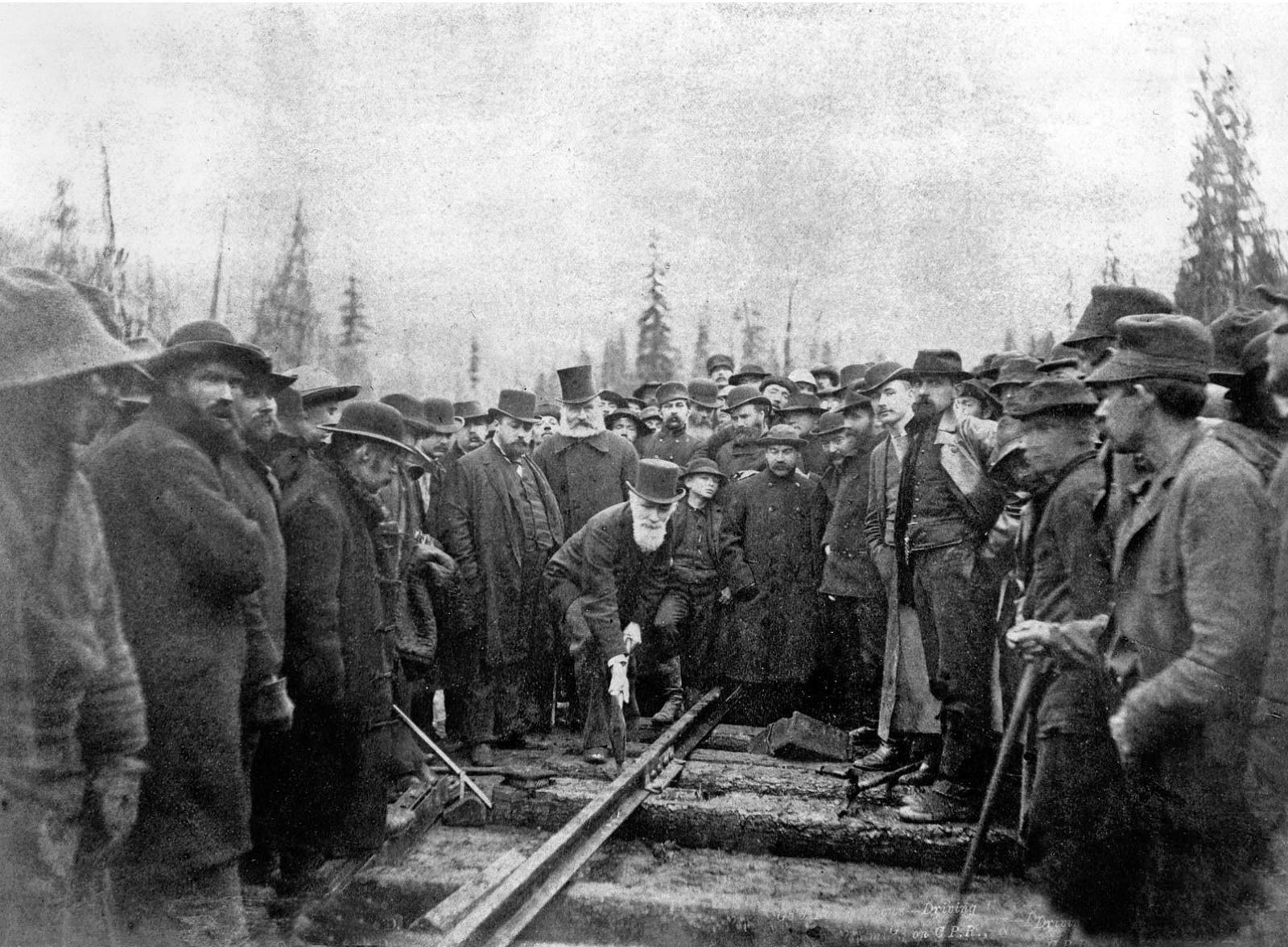
## Legend

- Grand Trunk
- Intercolonial
- Canadian Pacific
- ★ Federal capital
- Main cities
- Definite border
- - - Approximate border



➤ What is the connection between the development of the rail network and the development of the Dominion of Canada?





## ***The last spike***

(photo taken on  
November 7, 1885,  
marking the completion  
of the Canadian Pacific  
Railway)

- **15,000 Chinese workers** contributed to the construction of the CPR (1880-1884). They were given **the most difficult and dangerous jobs** like clearing the route with explosives
- They earned less than \$2 a day. They lived in makeshift camps and they had to pay for everything (clothes, food, transportation to the job site, medical care, etc.)
- About 600 Chinese men died during the construction of the CPR
- Many workers wanted to stay in Canada. **To discourage more immigration of poor Chinese workers**, the Government of Canada passed the **Chinese Head Tax** law in 1885:
  - \$50 tax to enter the country in 1885
  - \$500 tax to enter the country in 1904 (A year's wage at the time!).



## 3 main components of the National Policy

### **3) Colonization of Western Canada**

- The government wanted to lure immigrants to Canada to develop the fertile Prairies
- More immigration would increase the number of consumers in the country, which would expand the domestic market and accelerate industrialization
- New citizens would grow more wheat to feed the Canadian population and increase grain exports
- **The federal government tried to attract farmers from Europe by:**
  - distributing promotional materials
  - financing transportation companies to bring new immigrants to Canada
  - promising 160 acres of free, arable land to settlers in Western Canada.

# An ad targeting Britons (circa 1890)

The map shows summer and winter routes for reaching Canada.

**FREE FARMS FOR THE MILLION**

**DOMINION OF CANADA**

CLIMATE THE HEALTHIEST IN THE WORLD.

**FREE FARMS OF 160 ACRES**

**MANITOBA, CANADIAN NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA**

GRANTS FROM 100 TO 200 ACRES ARE OFFERED IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The advertisement makes claims about Canada's healthy climate.

This section describes the free farmland offered by the government.



# CANADA

THE RIGHT LAND FOR THE RIGHT MAN



TRAVEL BY  
**CANADIAN  
NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

SERCOMBE & HAYES, 9, South St., DORCHESTER

## READY MADE FARMS IN WESTERN CANADA



GET YOUR HOME IN CANADA  
FROM THE  
**CANADIAN PACIFIC**

SPECIAL FARMS ON VIRGIN SOIL  
NEAR THE RAILWAY  
AND CLOSE TO SCHOOLS, MARKETS, CHURCHES &c.  
ARE PREPARED EACH YEAR FOR  
BRITISH FARMERS OF MODERATE CAPITAL  
PAYMENTS IN EASY INSTALMENTS

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY (—)



OWN

**YOUR OWN**

**HOME IN CANADA**

*and apply for a*

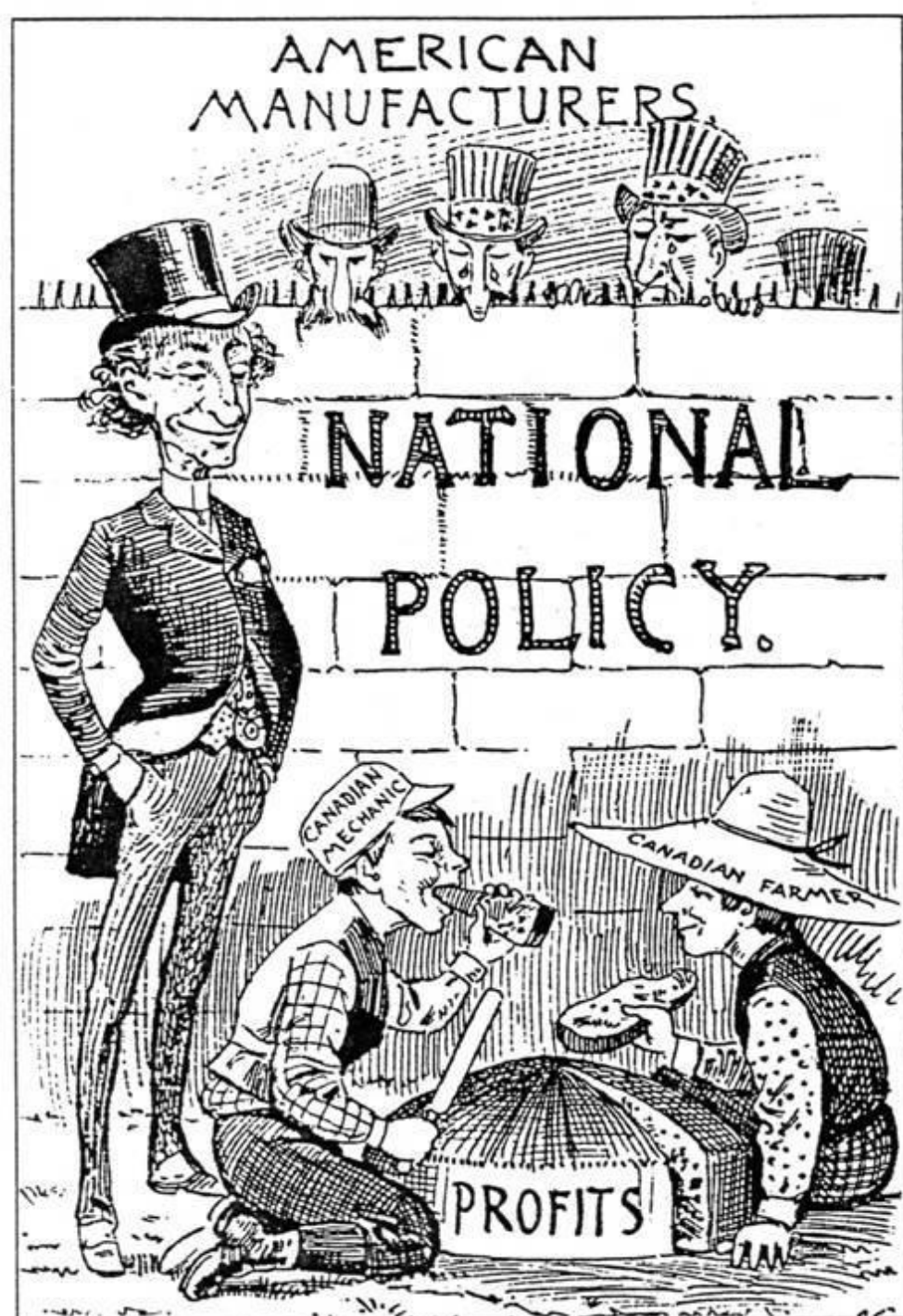
**READY-MADE FARM**

*to the nearest*

CANADIAN PACIFIC AGENT

**CANADIAN PACIFIC**





**This illustration shows Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, standing and watching a Canadian factory worker and a Canadian farmer seated on the ground.**

- a) What is the topic of the caricature?
- b) In what year was it made?
- c) What are the different characters doing?
  - Canadians
  - Americans
- d) Why is the National Policy represented by a wall?
- e) What positive aspect of the National Policy is illustrated in this caricature?



# Migration

# Rural exodus

- From the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, there were major population movements in Canada East/Québec.
- **Factors that contributed to rural exodus and rural depopulation:**
  - HIGH birth rate in rural areas ➡ ↑ population ➡ scarcity of farmland
  - Mechanization of agriculture ➡ reduced need for labourers ➡ many moved to urban areas in search of work
- In 1851: 87% of the population lived in rural areas  
In 1901: 64% of the population lived in rural areas

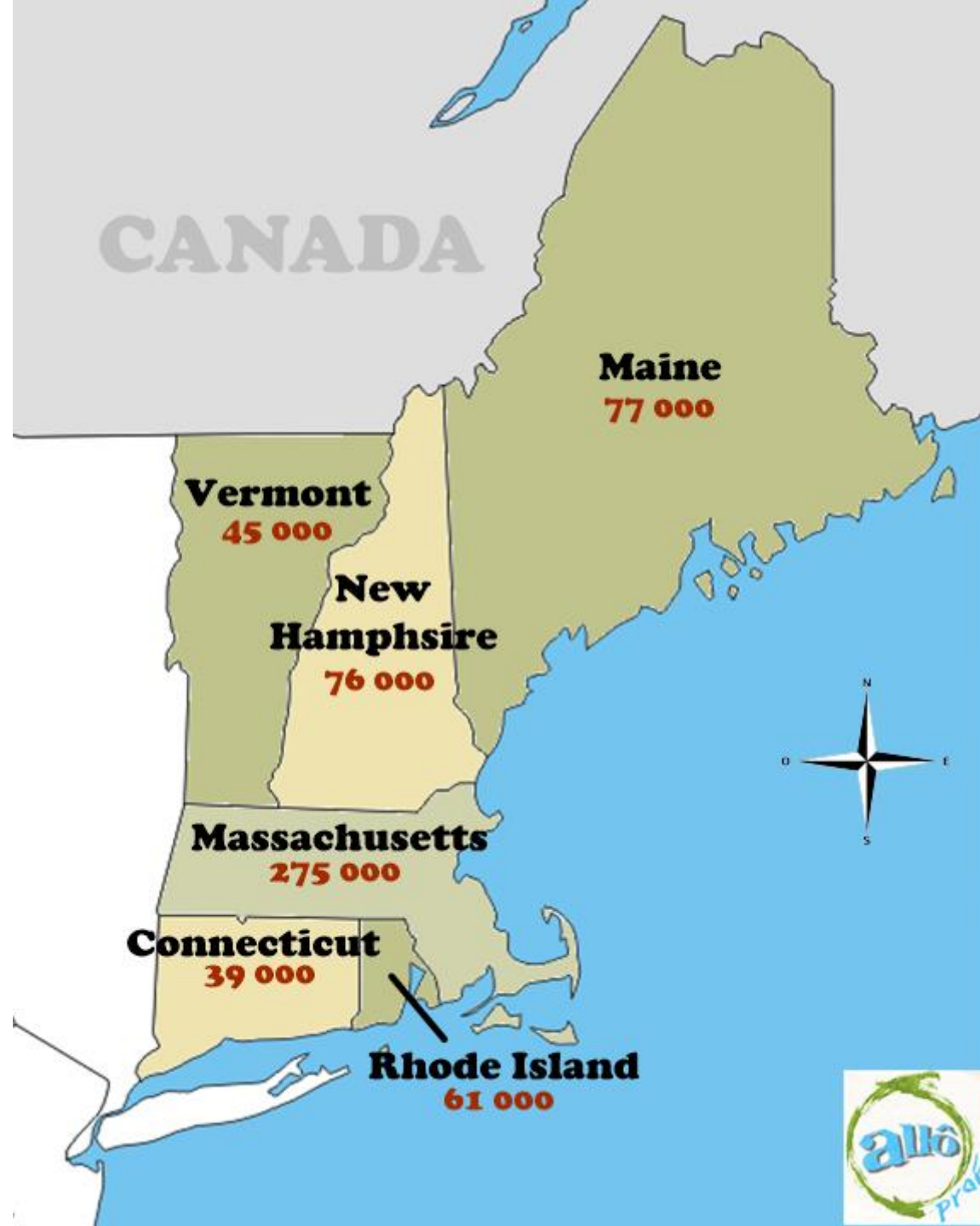


# Rural exodus

- The “surplus population” – especially young people, who were more likely to leave their rural homes – was faced with **3 options**:
  - 1. Move to the city** to find work in newly built factories
  - 2. Emigrate to the USA**, where there were more job opportunities
  - 3. Move into a new region of Québec** that had not yet been settled.

# Emigration to the USA

- The French Canadians who chose to emigrate to the United States, especially to New England, **worked in recently-built factories** (e.g. textile factories like cotton mills)
- **Many jobs** were offered and the **wages were higher** than those offered in Québec
- Entire families were attracted to move to the USA in search of a better life. The new railway made it easier to travel from place to place
- It is estimated that **over 500,000 French Canadians emigrated from Québec between 1840 and 1900.**



**French Canadians  
in New England,  
circa 1900**



# Net migration

- Emigrants: people leaving Canada (Exit)
- Immigrants: people moving to Canada (In)
- During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Canada had a negative net migration:
  - Due to emigration to the USA from both Québec and Canada
  - **The number of immigrants < the number of emigrants**
- **Despite this, the Canadian population continued to grow due to high birth rates.**

**1.40****NET MIGRATION IN CANADA BETWEEN 1851 AND 1901**

	<b>IMMIGRATION</b>	<b>EMIGRATION</b>	<b>NET MIGRATION</b>
<b>1851-1861</b>	352 000	170 000	+182 000
<b>1861-1871</b>	260 000	410 000	-150 000
<b>1871-1881</b>	350 000	404 000	-54 000
<b>1881-1891</b>	680 000	826 000	-146 000
<b>1891-1901</b>	250 000	380 000	-130 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+1 892 000</b>	<b>-2 190 000</b>	<b>-298 000</b>

Source: Adapted from Maurice Saint-Jean, *Atlas de géographie historique du Canada*, Éditions françaises, Boucherville, 1982.

**1.39****EVOLUTION OF THE  
POPULATION OF QUÉBEC  
AND CANADA BETWEEN  
1871 AND 1901**

	<b>NUMBER OF INHABITANTS</b>	
	<b>QUÉBEC</b>	<b>CANADA</b>
<b>1871</b>	1 191 516	3 689 257
<b>1901</b>	1 648 898	5 371 315

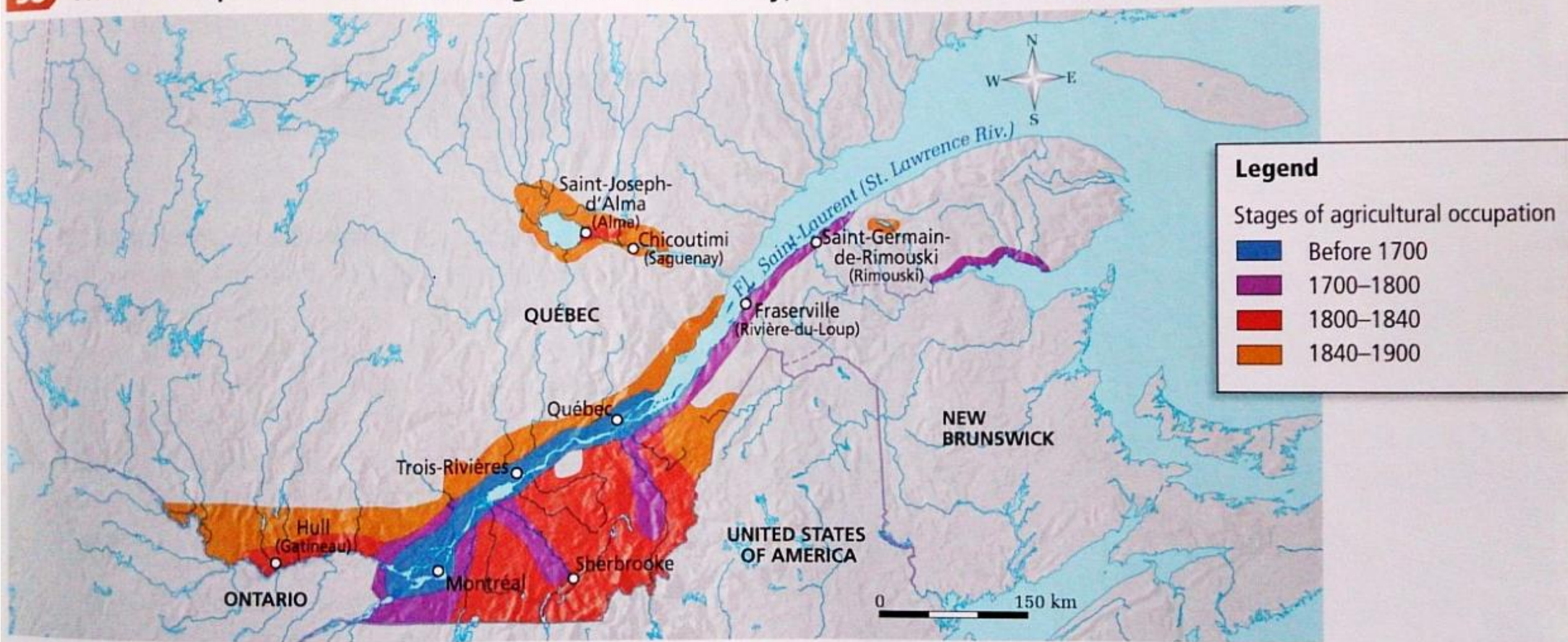
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Censuses (1851 to 1971), adapted by Institut de la statistique du Québec.

# New settlement areas in Québec

- **Agriculturalism**: a philosophy placing great value on farming and the role of the pioneer
- To limit the mass emigration to the USA, **the Catholic clergy and the Québec government encouraged French Canadian families to move to unsettled regions of Québec** through various programs
- The Government of Québec supported these colonization efforts by **subsidizing the construction of railways**, which provided access to remote areas
- **New regions settled**: the Laurentians, Lanaudière, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Témiscamingue and Lac-Saint-Jean.



## The development of Québec's agricultural territory, at the end of the 19th century



Data from: Gilles Laporte, Luc Lefebvre and David Milot, *Fondements historiques du Québec contemporain*, 2013.



# New settlement areas in Québec

- These efforts were NOT very successful:
  - The **land was of poor quality**, the **climate too harsh** to grow crops
  - These farms were **too far from markets** so that settlers could not sell their products
  - These settlers were **limited to subsistence farming**
  - To get by, these settlers worked for logging companies in the winter, thus creating a **farm-forest economy** (the farming and logging sectors complemented each other, both being essential to the colonization of these areas).

# Transatlantic immigration (1867-1896)

- The Canadian government was encouraging large-scale immigration **to populate Western Canada**
- The majority of immigrants settled in the West, many moved to big cities, like Montréal and Toronto, where there were many factory jobs. Canada's population became increasingly ethnically diverse
- **1.5 million immigrants arrived to Canada:**
  - Great Britain
  - United States
  - Northern and Eastern Europe (Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Holland)
  - Jews from Eastern Europe and Russia
  - China