

CANADA WEST

ROLE CARD

Canada West is still very much a farming province. More than 80 percent of the people live outside the cities or towns. The wilderness is being pushed back and farms are becoming wider and more prosperous.

New farm machinery makes the back-breaking work of the farmers easier. Daniel Massey at Newcastle, and Alanson Harris at Beamsville, Canada West, are now producing ploughs and horse-drawn mechanical reapers. The two businesses will eventually form the large farm implement firm of Massey-Harris.

The cities of Canada West are growing rapidly. Toronto's main streets are paved and gas lamps provide little patches of light for evening pedestrians. The other streets are dirt and covered with horse manure. Sidewalks are made of boards that become treacherous and slippery when wet.

Open sewers and outdoor toilets are common, even in cities. Bathtubs are only for the rich. Most people wash their hands, face and feet in that order. They deal with other body odours with perfumes and scented lotions.

An important natural resource has recently been found in Canada West. James M. Williams is developing North America's first oil well at Oil Springs in Canada West during the late 1850s. In 1862, oil is discovered at nearby Petrolia. Hugh Shaw hits the first free-flowing gusher. Oil flows out at the rate of 2000 barrels a day and brings a price of \$10.00 a barrel. From the oil, kerosene (coal oil) can be burned in coal-oil lamps and asphalt made for paving the streets.

Population: 1,396,000 (1861)

Largest Cities: Toronto population 56,000 (1861); Hamilton 26,700; Ottawa 21,500; London 15,826; Kingston 12,400; Brantford 8,100.

How People Make Their Living: The largest part of the population is engaged in farming. In the cities, in 1861, the main occupations are clerks, carpenters, saddlers, brewers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, book-sellers, bankers, grocers, hotel-keepers and preachers.

Special Problems:

1. Good farm land in Canada West is becoming scarce. Young men who want to start farming often have to go to the American West to find available land. People are saying that it is time that the Hudson's Bay Company open up their western lands for settlements.
2. Political deadlock makes it impossible to get any bills passed through the Assembly, or to pass any new laws.
3. The population of Canada West is now greater than Canada East. People in Canada West want representation by population to gain a larger voice in the Assembly.

Railways: The St. Lawrence River has no year-round ice-free port. For half of the year goods in and out of the colony must be transported on American railways through American territory. A railway to Halifax through Canada East, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will provide an all-British route for trade and defence.

Defence: There is danger that the Fenians will attack along the Canadian-American border in the Niagara region and around Prescott on the St. Lawrence River.

Canada West Fathers of Confederation

John A. Macdonald	1815-1891
George Brown	1818-1880
William McDougall	1822-1905
Alexander Campbell	1822-1892
Oliver Mowat	1820-1903
James Cockburn	1819-1883
William P. Howland	1811-1907