

NEW BRUNSWICK

ROLE CARD

In the 1860s, Saint John is one of the largest cities in the Maritimes. Saint John is an ambitious, commercial city. It often seems very American. The editor of a Kingston newspaper describes it like this: "In Saint John, you see big men casually dressed, with their hats tilted at an angle of 45 degrees on their heads, smoking cigars in hotels on Sunday, and talking politics. There are more flashy-dressed ladies at theatres and concerts than in Canada."

Few New Brunswickers know people of the Canadas very well. Therefore, Premier Tilley of New Brunswick arranges to have some members of Parliament and businessmen from Canada visit his province in order to get to know one another better.

The visiting Canadians are treated with a great deal of hospitality by the Maritimers. Tours of the province are arranged, as well as banquets, dances and picnics. The visit does a great deal of good. It convinces Maritimers that Canadians are not bad fellow, and not as foreign and strange as they have supposed. Canadians too enjoy good times, food, liquor, games and laughs.

Both Canadians and Maritimers see they have things in common. They speak the same languages, English or French. They fly the same flag, and share many of the same laws and customs. There are differences though. Each colony has its own money and postage stamps. Each charges the other duty on all goods shipped in.



NEW BRUNSWICK AND FIGURES

Population: 252,000

Largest City: Saint John, population 28,805 (1861)

How People Make a Living: In the woods of New Brunswick, thousands of lumberjacks cut trees and float them down the rivers to the mills. In the mills, the logs are cut into planks and exported to all parts of the world. Many of the ships in which they are transported are themselves built in the shipyards of New Brunswick.

FACTS

Railways: Many New Brunswickers hope to connect Saint John and Montreal by rail through the Saint John River Valley. They hope for a rail connection with Nova Scotia too. Then they can build a trade with the markets of Canada to the west and Nova Scotia to the east.



Defence: New Brunswick shares a long border with the United States, and in the event of war, the colony will have difficulty defending this border. It will take a long time for British troops to arrive in New Brunswick if needed. Many fear that the Americans might invade New Brunswick to punish Britain for the British part in the American Civil War.

Special Problems: Railways cost a great deal of money to build, and only Britain can supply the funds to carry out the job. For reasons of defence, the British want to keep any railway away from the American – New Brunswick border. But that is exactly where the railway is needed most, in the settlements of the Saint John River Valley. Without British funds, New Brunswickers can only afford to build a small railway to Saint John to Shediac.

New Brunswick Fathers of Confederation

Samuel Leonard Tilley	1818-1896
John M. Johnson	1818-1868
William H. Steeves	1814-1873
Edward. B. Chandler	1800-1880
John Hamilton Gray	1814-1889
Peter Mitchell	1824-1899
Charles Fisher	1808-1880
R. D. Wilmot	1809-1891