

Challenges and Government Responses 1855-1914

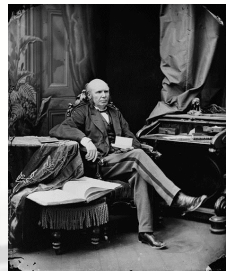
Denominational Compromise

- In Newfoundland, political parties used to be based along religious beliefs.
 - The Liberal Party was mostly made up of Roman Catholics while the Conservative Party was mostly Protestant.
- This caused a lot of religious rivalry in politics and eventually led to a riot in St. John's in 1861 which saw three people killed and twenty wounded.
 - This led to a denominational compromise which would see cabinet positions and public service jobs shared equally. In exchange, the churches agreed to stay out of politics.
- By 1874, the government supported a denominational school system where public funds were given to the churches to run their own schools.
 - Denominational education existed in Newfoundland until 1997.

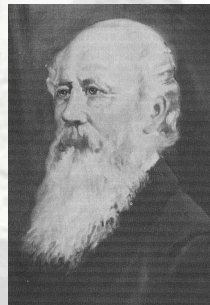


Confederation

- Only ten years after getting the right to govern their own affairs, Newfoundlanders had to decide if they would become a part of Canada or not.
- The premier at the time, Frederic Carter, felt that Newfoundland would benefit from Confederation and made it an issue in the 1869 election.
- His opponent, Charles Fox Bennett, felt that Confederation would mean the loss of an independent country, raise taxes and bring an end to the denominational education system.
 - The Anti-Confederates won the 1869 election, 21 seats to 9.
 - This meant that Newfoundland would remain an independent country and confederation with Canada would not become a public issue again until the 1940s.



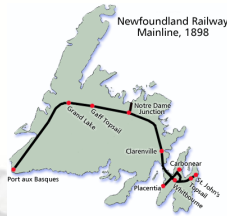
Frederick Carter (Pro-Confederate)



Charles Fox Bennett (anti-Confederate)

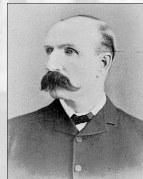
The Building of the Railway

- By the 1880s, Newfoundland was facing serious economic difficulties.
 - Prices for fish and seal prices fell and catches were unreliable.
 - Population was growing but many were leaving to find jobs outside the fishery.
- Many people felt that a railway would solve economic problems by opening the interior and develop jobs in mining, farming and logging.
 - Construction began in 1881 and was completed in 1897.
 - Delays occurred because of financial and political reasons (See pp. 82-83).
 - Robert Reid, Scottish railway builder, constructed the railway from Whitbourne to Port Aux Basques.
 - See pages 85-86 in your text for a detailed explanation as to why the government felt a railway should be built (WARNING: Formal language used. Read and re-read).



The route the Newfoundland Railway followed. Does the route look familiar?

Construction of a railway trestle in Conception Bay South.



Robert G. Reid. His family would run the railway until 1923.

The ironically named "Newfie Bullet" on display in Corner Brook.



An island wide trip on the "Bullet" would be 24-27 hours . . . Longer if there were delays!!

Questions

1. Explain what problems the government would have to deal with in the future as a result of the Denominational Compromise in regards to church-run schools.
2. Examine the Primary Source Feature on page 79. Make a T-Chart outlining the arguments "For Confederation" and "Against Confederation".
3. Why did the Newfoundland Railway end at Port aux Basques and not at St. Georges as originally planned?
4. Besides money and politics, what other challenges could the building of the railway have faced?
5. How did the building of the Railway impact on the lives of the Mi'kmaw?