

The year is **1840**. The **British colonies** of **Upper and Lower Canada** are about to undergo a **major change**.

What is the political, economic and social situation at the beginning of the year 1840?

How do the events in previous years and centuries explain the situation?

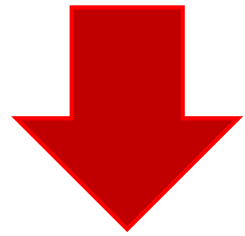
Let's look back...

HISTORY OF QUÉBEC AND CANADA

RECAP OF SECONDARY III CONTENT

The British Rule

- Timeline: 1760 to 1867



RECAP: 1760 to 1840



1791 to 1840

For some people in Québec today, their **sense of belonging** is tied to the Québec nation. For others, it is tied to the Canadian nation. For others still, it is tied to both.

Already, in the 18th century, the sense of belonging to a nation divided colonial society. On one side, there were the **colonists of British origin** who wished to see their British traditions and institutions implanted in the colony. On the other side, there were ***Canadiens*** who were attached to their mother tongue, values and rights kept after the Conquest.

1791 to 1840

In **1791**, in the hope of satisfying the interests of these two groups, **the British Parliament adopted a new constitution** that divided the territory of the colony into two provinces: **Lower Canada (east) and Upper Canada (west)**.

In Lower Canada, where the majority of the population was still French Canadian, **tensions** rapidly dominated the debates of the **newly created Legislative Assembly**. **Two parties were formed**. Increasingly dissatisfied, some *Canadien* deputies made a call to arms.

How did the society and economy of Lower Canada develop from 1791 to 1840? How did the political situation that resulted from the *Constitutional Act of 1791* lead to rebellions?

Liberal and republican ideas

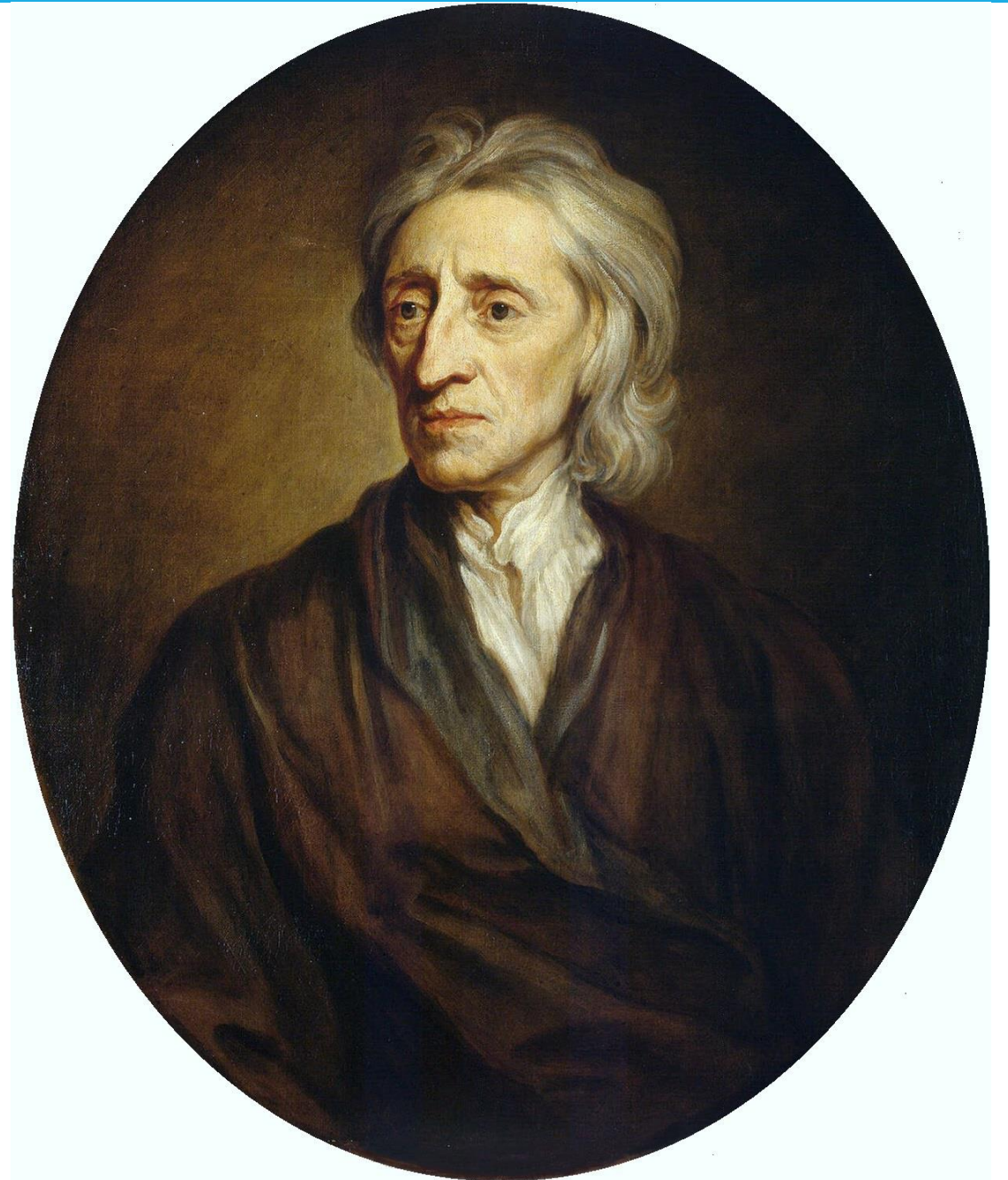
CURRENT OF THOUGHT: LIBERALISM

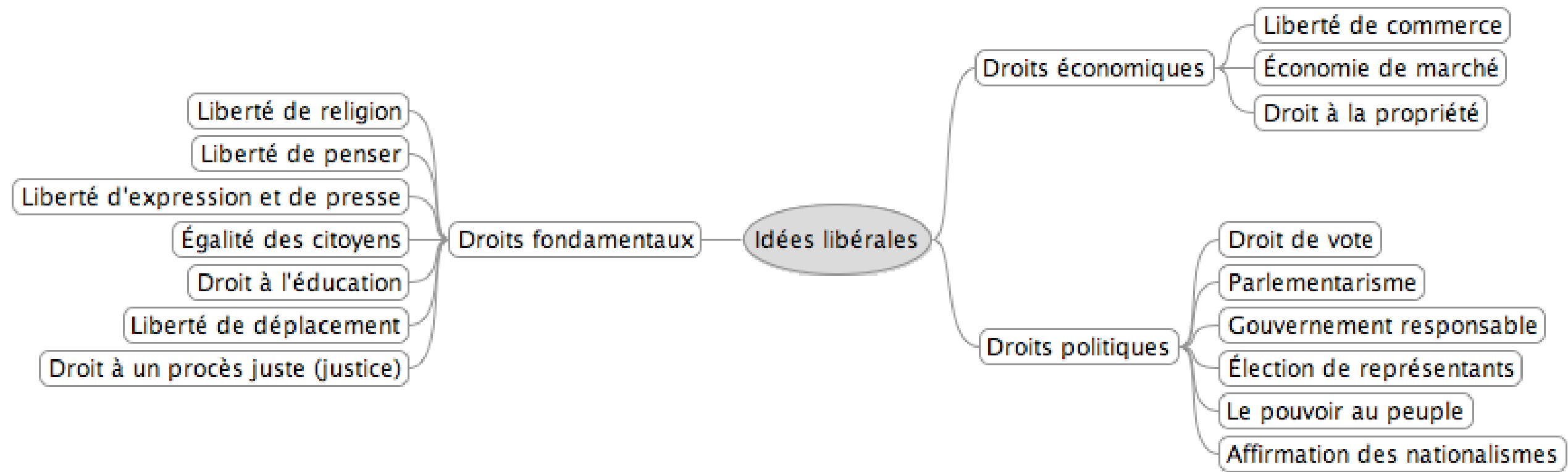
- A set of beliefs (*doctrine*) that advocates that **all human beings have fundamental rights regardless of status** like the rights to life, liberty, equality, justice, property ownership, freedom of speech and freedom of religion.
- Liberalists believe that **political power should be shared among elected representatives** (right to vote). This political liberalism opposes the principles of absolute monarchy. All 3 powers of the State (legislative, executive and judicial) must be separated.

John Locke

(1631-1704)

*English philosopher of the 17th century
who advocated liberal ideas*





CURRENT OF THOUGHT: LIBERALISM

- Liberal ideas were spread in the Province of Québec/Lower Canada):
 - during the American Revolution and the French Revolution
 - in newspapers like *La Gazette de Québec* and *La Gazette de Montréal*
 - by the Loyalists – they want a Legislative Assembly with representatives elected by the population.

CURRENT OF THOUGHT: REPUBLICANISM

- The supporters of this political ideology believe that **the power to govern belongs to the people**. They question the system of the monarchy.
- This movement fueled the American Revolution (1775-1783) as well as the French Revolution (1789-1799).

Constitutional Act (1791)

WAIT!!! ANOTHER ACT?!? LET'S RECAP!

FRENCH RÉGIME

- Company rule (1600-1663)
(monopoly)
- Royal Government (1663-1760)
(absolute monarchy)



BRITISH RULE

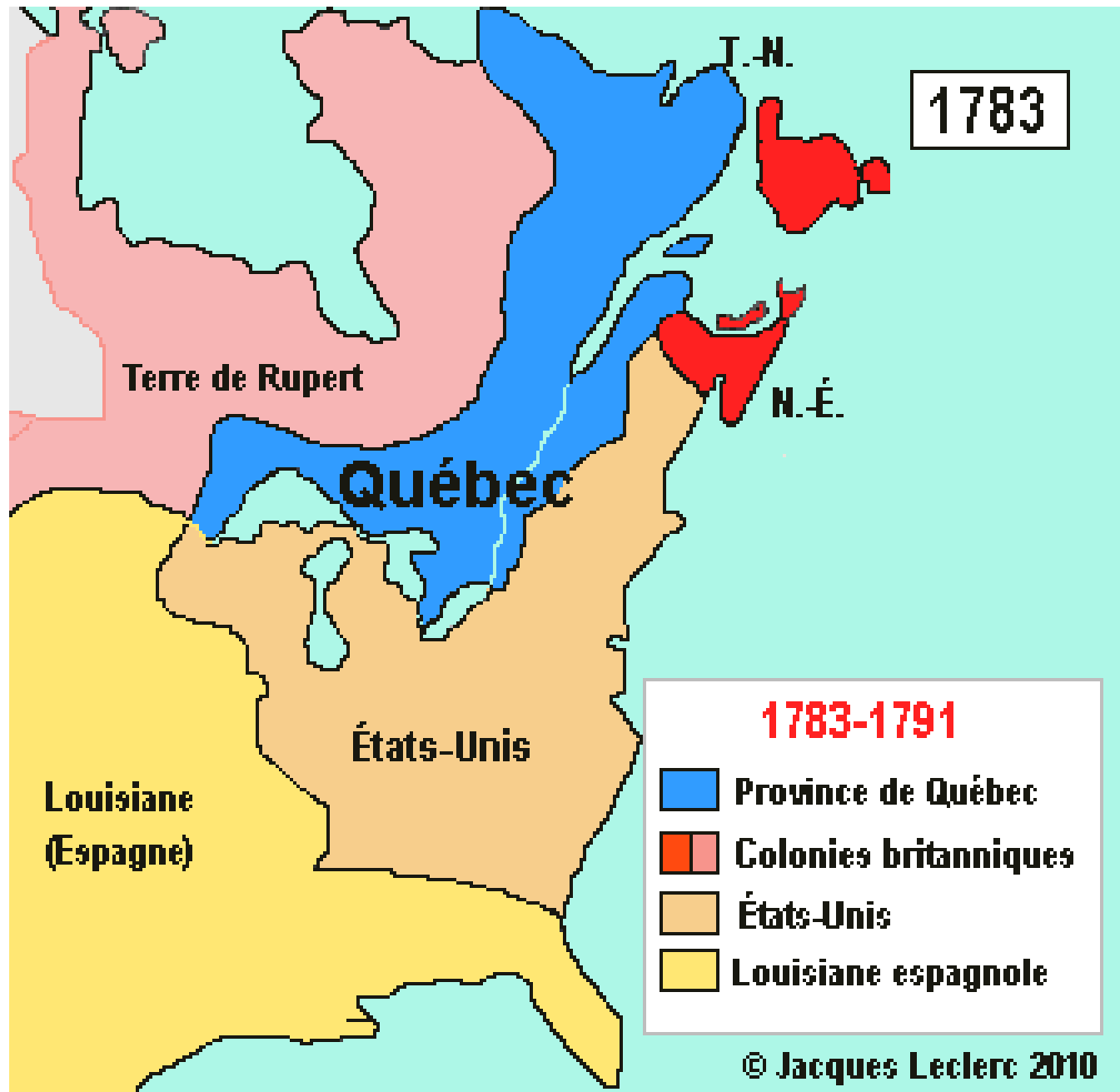
- Military government (1760-1763)
- Royal proclamation (1763-1774)
- Québec Act (1774-1791)
- **Constitutional Act (1791-1840)**



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

The *Constitutional Act of 1791* divided the Province of Québec into two provinces. Can you name them?

- A. *Québec and Ontario*
- B. *Canada East and Canada West*
- C. *Lower Canada and Upper Canada*



British North America, 1791



QUESTION

Why were the 2 provinces named *Upper Canada* and *Lower Canada*?

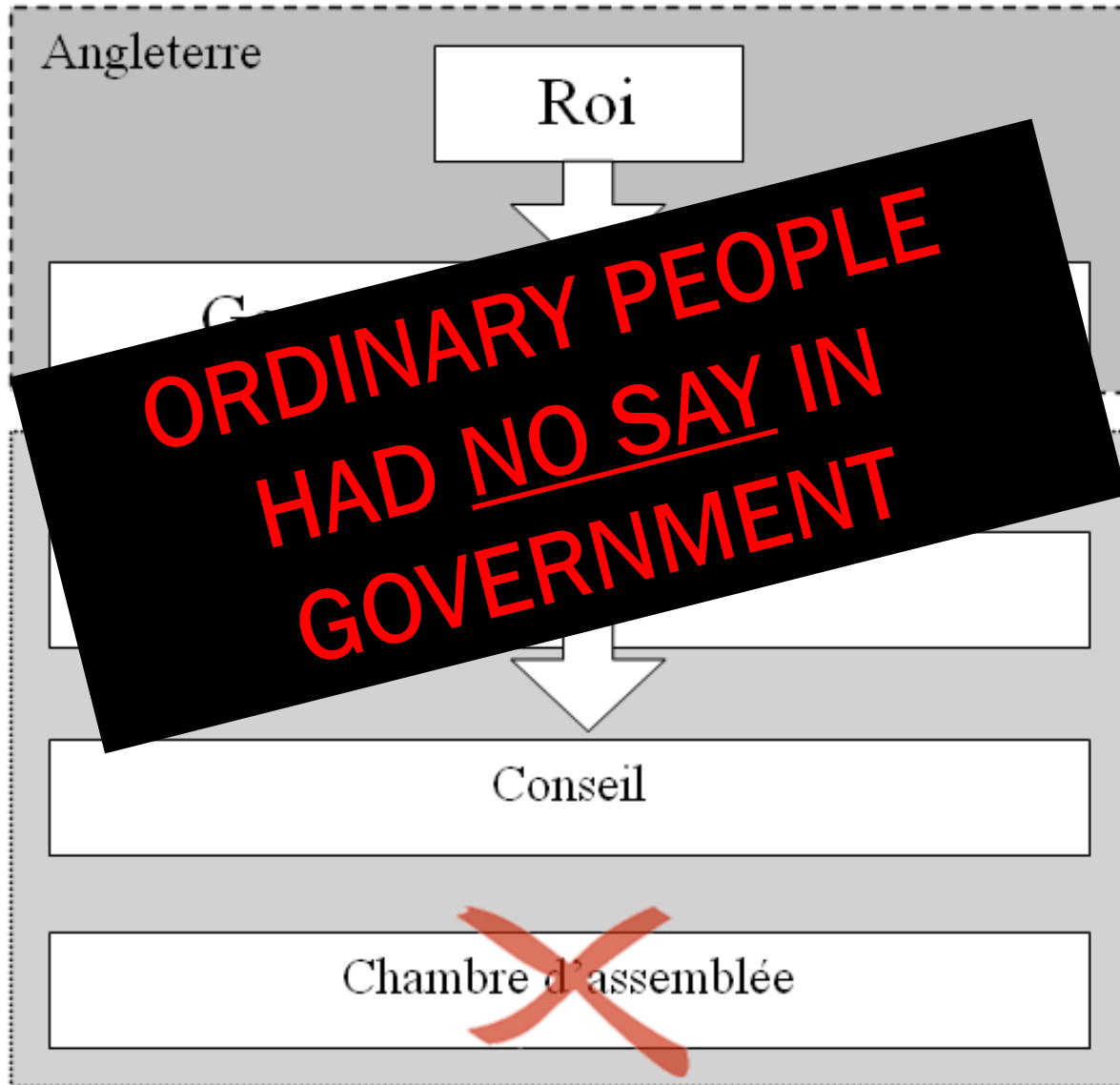
Their names reflected their positions relative to the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.

<i>Characteristics of Upper and Lower Canada in 1791</i>	UPPER CANADA	LOWER CANADA
Size of the population	<i>10,000 people (Loyalists)</i>	<i>160,000 people</i>
Main language	<i>English</i>	<i>French (90%)</i>
Religion of the majority	<i>Protestant religion</i>	<i>Roman Catholic religion</i>
Laws	<i>British civil and criminal laws</i>	<i>French civil laws and British criminal laws</i>
System of land division	<i>Townships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Seigneuries remained</i> - <i>Townships</i>

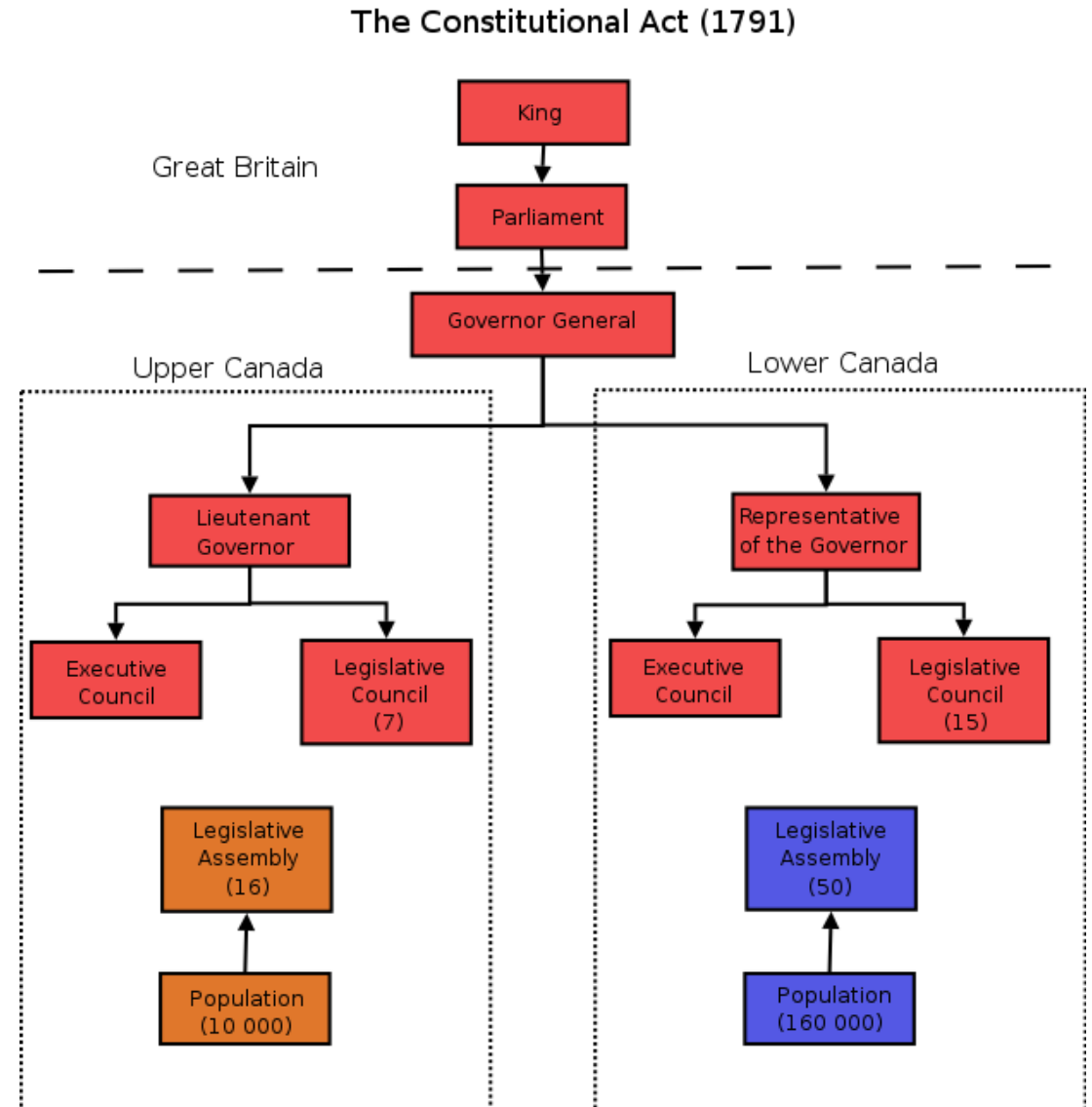
CURRENT OF THOUGHT: PARLIAMENTARISM

- The new political regime set up in Upper and Lower Canada stemmed from the political system of the mother country which was a **constitutional monarchy**.
- It was the beginning of parliamentarism, a **political regime where representatives, elected or named, formed a Parliament to discuss and vote on laws**.

Québec Act (1774)



Constitutional Act (1791) (system of Representative Government)



THE RIGHT TO VOTE & ELIGIBILITY

- Representatives of the Legislative Assembly were elected for a period of **4 years**
- Voters went to their county's polling station where **they voted out loud**
- Polling stations remained opened as long as voters showed up (over a period of several days).

TRUE or FALSE QUESTION

Only British subjects had the right to vote.

TRUE!

TRUE or FALSE QUESTION

Only British subjects aged 16 years and older had the right to vote.

FALSE!

Only British subjects aged 21 years and older had the right to vote.

TRUE or FALSE QUESTION

To have the right to vote, British subjects had to be property owners or tenants having payed a year's rent worth at least 10 pounds sterling.

TRUE!

TRUE or FALSE QUESTION

Women had the right to vote.

TRUE!

As long as they met all the necessary conditions.

Parliamentary debates

	TORY PARTY	PARTI CANADIEN
Other names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Château clique</i> - <i>British Party</i> 	<i>Parti patriote (as of 1826)</i>
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Governor, British deputies, councils</i> - <i>Supported by rich businessmen, bankers, merchants (John Molson)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Canadien and a few British deputies</i> - <i>French-speaking professionals who had support of most people.</i>
Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Controlled the appointed Executive and Legislative Councils</i> - <i>Ran civil service</i> - <i>Spent money on public works</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Controlled the Legislative Assembly</i> - <i>Raise taxes or deny them</i> <p><i>(Little control over the government)</i></p>
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Promoted laws that favoured businesses</i> - <i>Pushed for construction of canals and railways</i> - <i>Preferred to raise taxes on property</i> - <i>Favoured union with Upper Canada</i> - <i>Hoped that the French would be assimilated into the English pop.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Opposed expenses which favoured mainly the English</i> - <i>Wanted to keep the seigneurial system and French civil laws</i> - <i>Preferred to tax businesses and trade to pay for improving the roads</i> - <i>Pushed to have responsible government</i> - <i>Fought to preserve French culture</i>

THE MACE: symbol of power



THE MACE: symbol of power

- It is one of the most important symbols that we inherited from the British parliamentary tradition and continue to use today. It is a massive sceptre, heavy and ornate, which is **kept in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms. It symbolizes the authority of the Speaker and the right conferred on the Commons by the Crown to meet and pass laws.**
- The mace used in the Canadian House of Commons is an almost exact replica of the one in the British House, apart from some typically Canadian decorative elements. Made of gilded silver, it measures 148.6 cm by 22.9 cm. The vase-shaped head consists of four panels bearing the Arms of Canada, the rose of England, the harp of Ireland and the thistle of Scotland. The initials ER (for Elizabeth Regina) are carved on each side of the panel. The head of the mace is in the shape of the Tudor crown, with the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom appearing on it in relief. Roses, shamrocks, thistles, fleurs-de-lys and maple leaves are carved on the staff.

Population

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY (1834)

- The law putting an end to slavery in most of the British colonies (including the 2 Canadas) came into effect on **August 1, 1834**
- This medal was created in 1834 to commemorate the event
- The 2 Canadas became a land of freedom for thousands of African American slaves between 1834 and 1860.

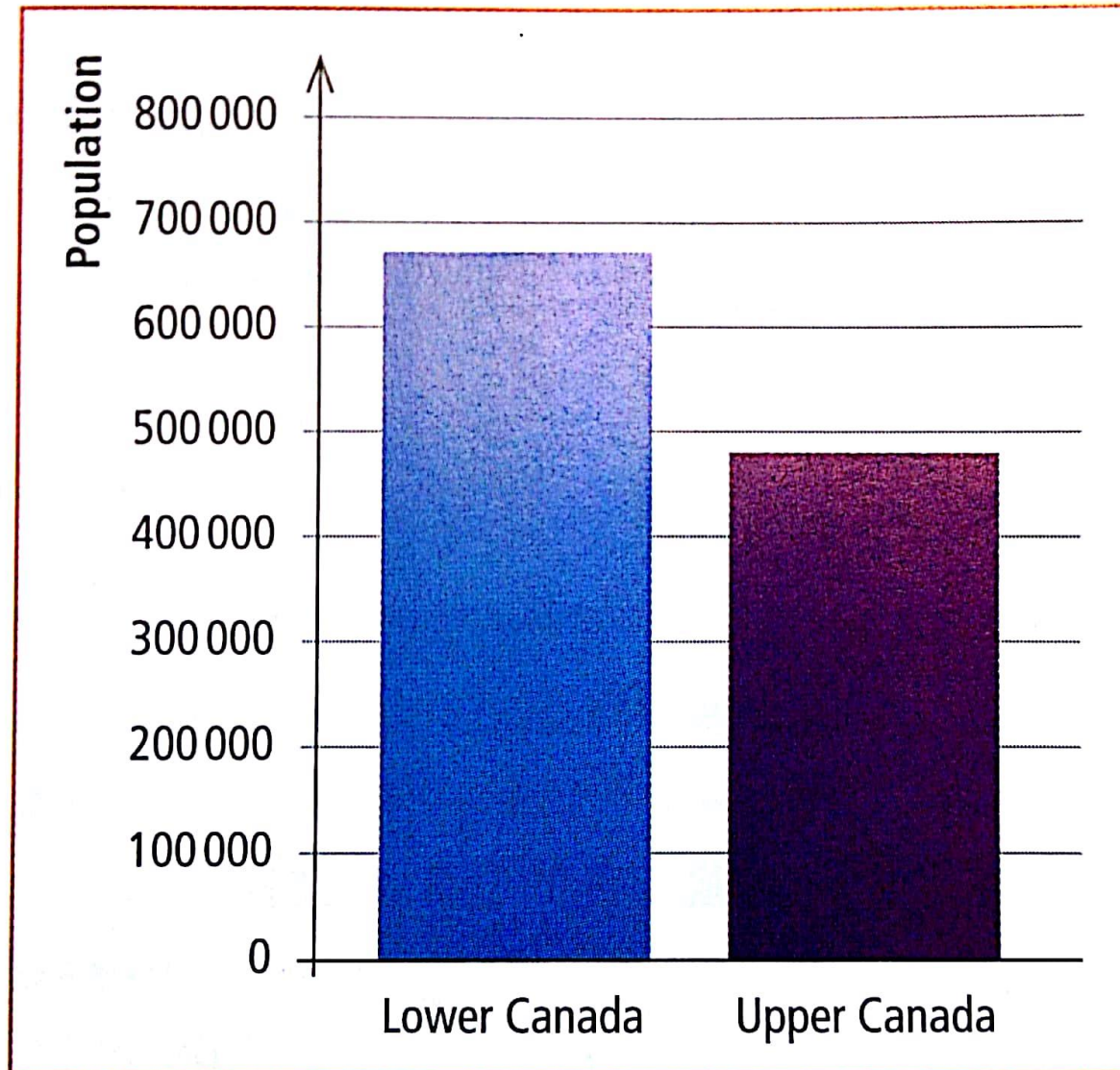


***CANADIEN* POPULATION**

- In 1791: about 160,000 inhabitants in Lower Canada
- **In Lower Canada, about 90% are *Canadiens* of French origin**
 - Mostly farmers
 - Members of the Catholic clergy (bishops, priests)
 - *Seigneurs*
 - Professional *bourgeoisie* (notaries, lawyers, doctors, etc.)
- In 1791: *Canadiens* of French origin make up less than 10% of the population of Upper Canada.

5

The population of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, 1840



Data from: *Censuses of Lower Canada and Upper Canada*, Statistics Canada.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What factor explains the population increase in Lower Canada?

- A. *Massive immigration from British Isles*
- B. *Natural growth due to high birth rate*
- C. *Lots of aliens among the population*

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What factor explains the population increase in Upper Canada?

- A. Massive immigration from the US (1791-1812) and from the British Isles (as of 1815)*
- B. Natural growth due to high birth rate*
- C. Lots of aliens among the population*

Migratory movements

English-speaking immigrants arrive (from 1815)



Migration flows

Immigration of British subjects



Reasons for immigration:

- attractiveness of the fur trade after the Conquest,
- difficult social and economic conditions in Great Britain,
- famine in Ireland

Most Irish families were peasants who lived on tiny plots of land and depended on the potato... In 1840 Irish farmers began to find blight-blackened potatoes in their harvests. Every year the blight spread farther and by 1847, when the famine hit its height, just about every potato on the island rotted in the ground... By the time it was over in 1851, starvation and disease had killed about 750 000 men, women and children and driven more than one million others to Britain, North America and Australia.

Loss Of Skin Elasticity

Low Blood Pressure

Diarrhea

Vomiting

Rapid Weight Loss

Increased Thirst

Cholera

TYPHUS

HOW IS IT SPREAD?



LICE

WHERE DO LICE COME FROM?



DIRTY CIVILIANS

HOW CAN I PREVENT IT?



REGULAR BATHS

1



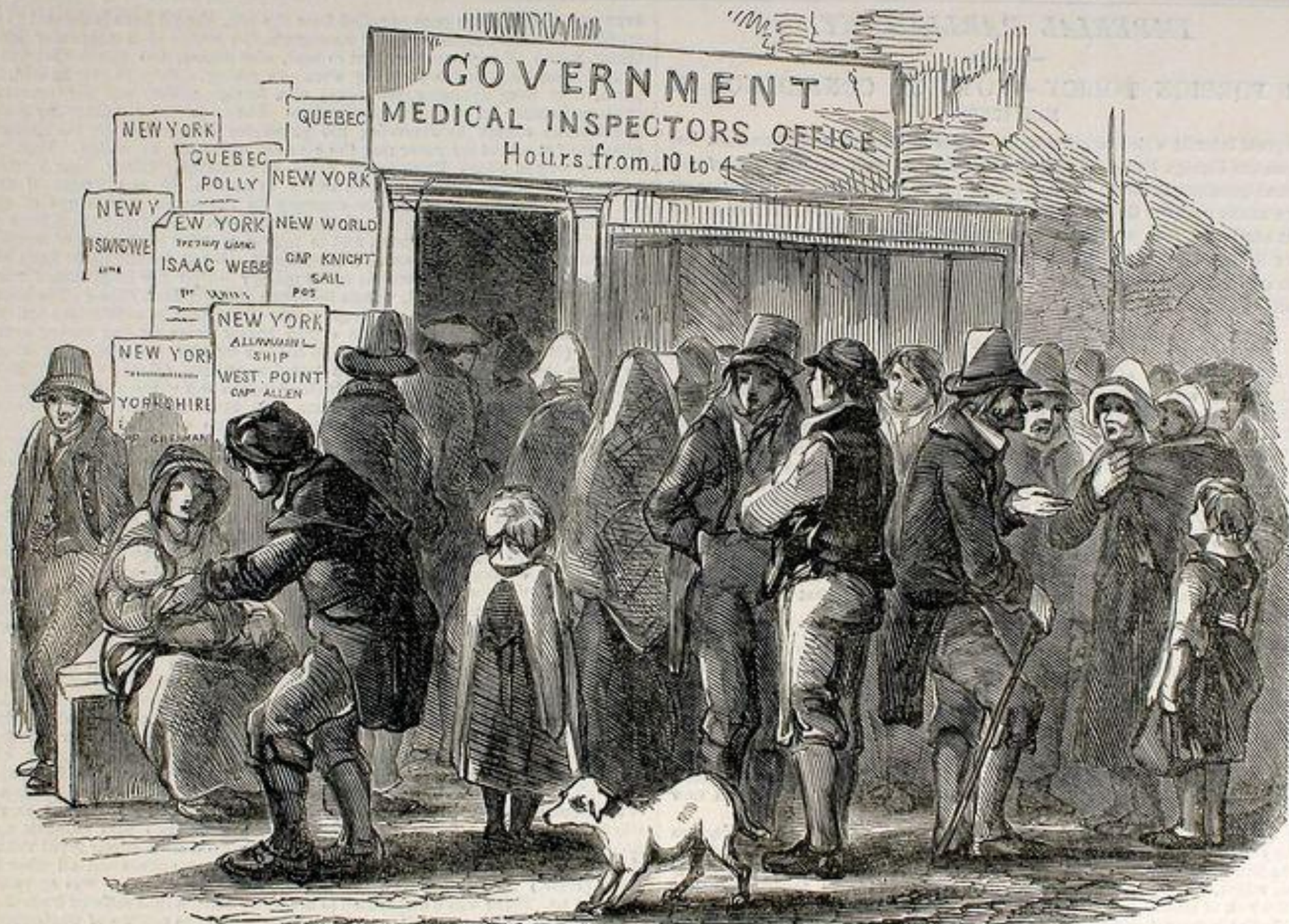
**A.L.63
(IN THE SEAMS)**

2



**REGULAR
INOCULATION**

3



THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

Quarantine station at Grosse-Île, QC (1832)



3 main groups in Lower Canada:

1. **The French** – French – Roman Catholicism
2. **The Irish** – English – Roman Catholicism
3. **The English** – English – Anglicanism

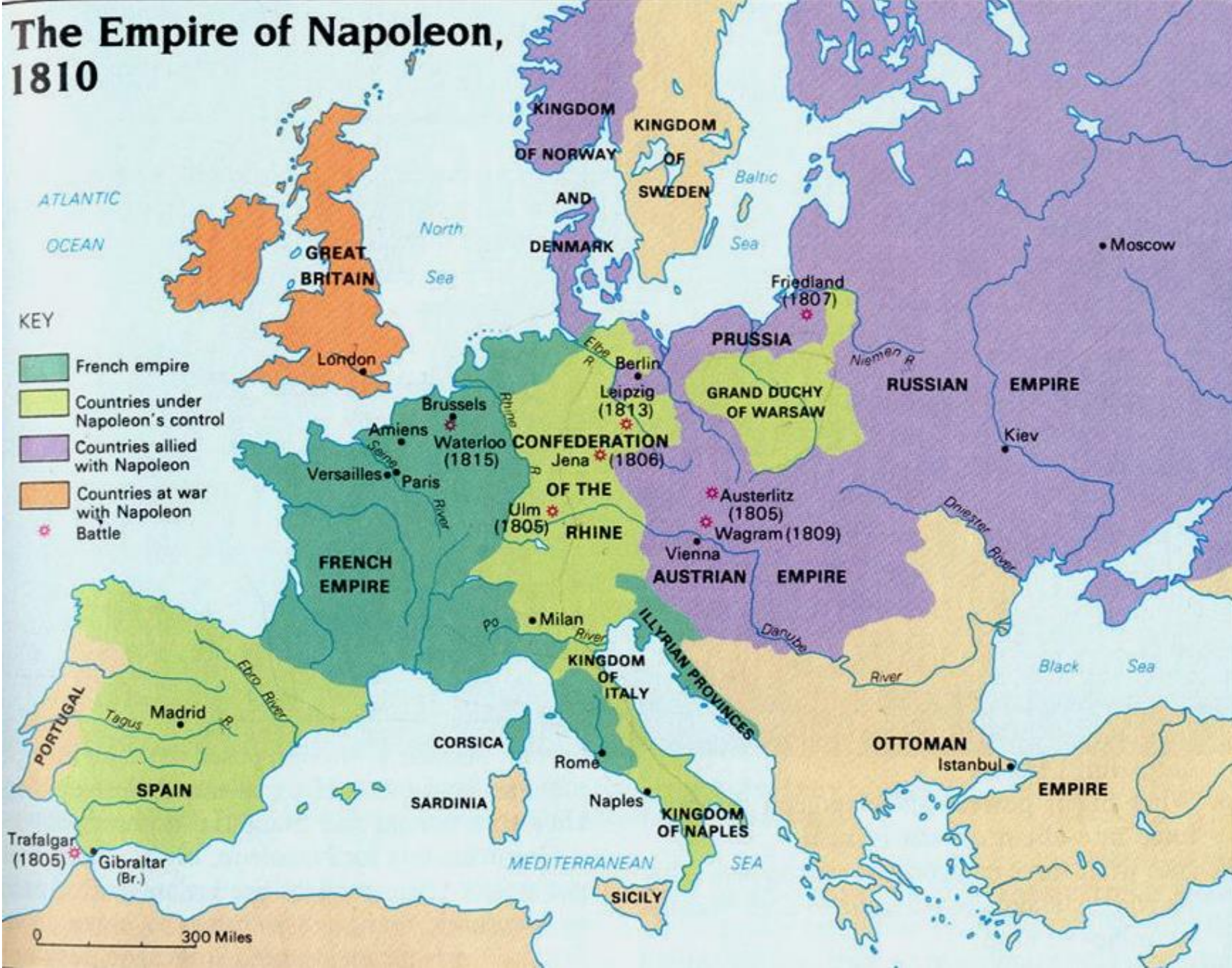
British-American War of 1812 (1812-1814)

Napoleonic Wars / Continental Blockade (1806)



Napoléon Bonaparte (French Emperor)

The Empire of Napoleon, 1810



The War of 1812





MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

Who was Laura Secord?

- A. *A lady who made delicious chocolate*
- B. *A Canadian heroine of the War of 1812*
- C. *The wife of Napoléon Bonaparte*

LAURA SECORD (1775-1868)

- Wife of James Secord, a militia sergeant of the British Army wounded during a battle in 1812
- In the spring of 1813, James Secord learned that the Americans were preparing an attack on the British post of Beaver Dams in Upper Canada. He sent his wife to warn the officers. Laura Secord walked in the mud and marshes for 18 hours straight (32 km). She warned the officers in time.
- Helped by their Native allies, the British won the battle against the Americans.



TECUMSEH

- Native chief Tecumseh was convinced that the Americans posed a great threat to the Aboriginal lands (were looking to expand their territory to the detriment of First Nations peoples)
- Tecumseh took advantage of the British-American War of 1812 to fight alongside the British
- The participation of thousands of Natives contributed to many battle victories for the British.



5 ECONOMIC CHANGES (1800-1850)

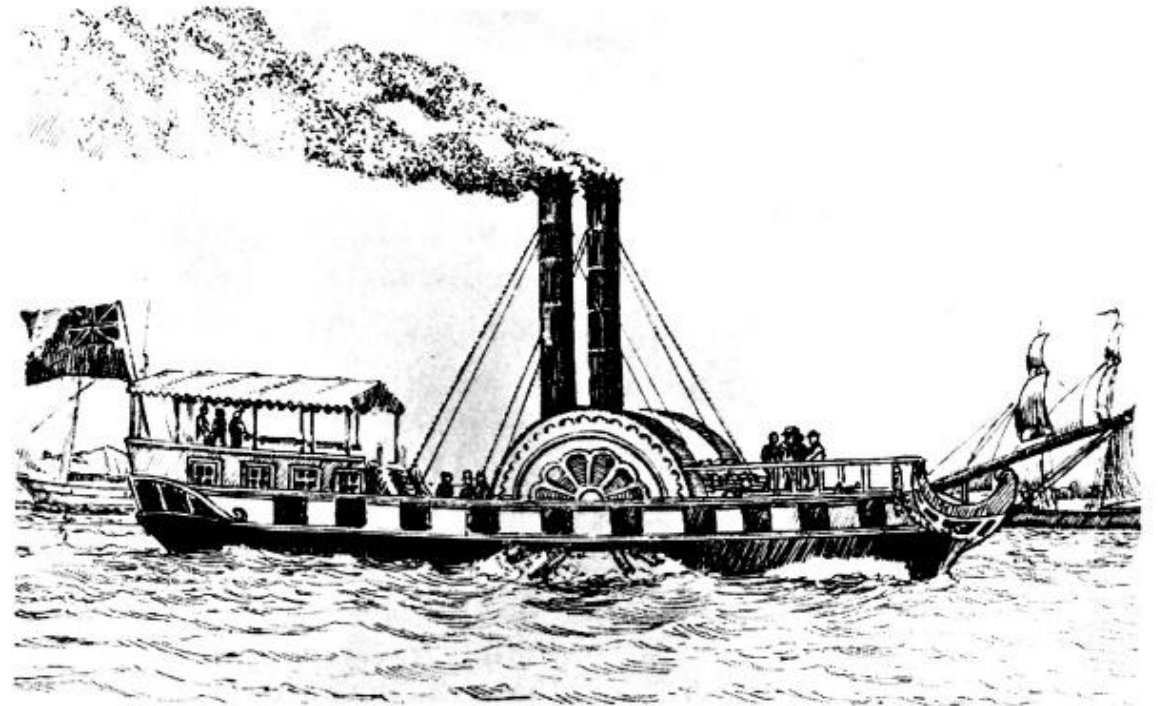
Timber trade

Railways

Agriculture

Canals

Steamboats



John Ross Robertson Collection

C. H. J. Snider

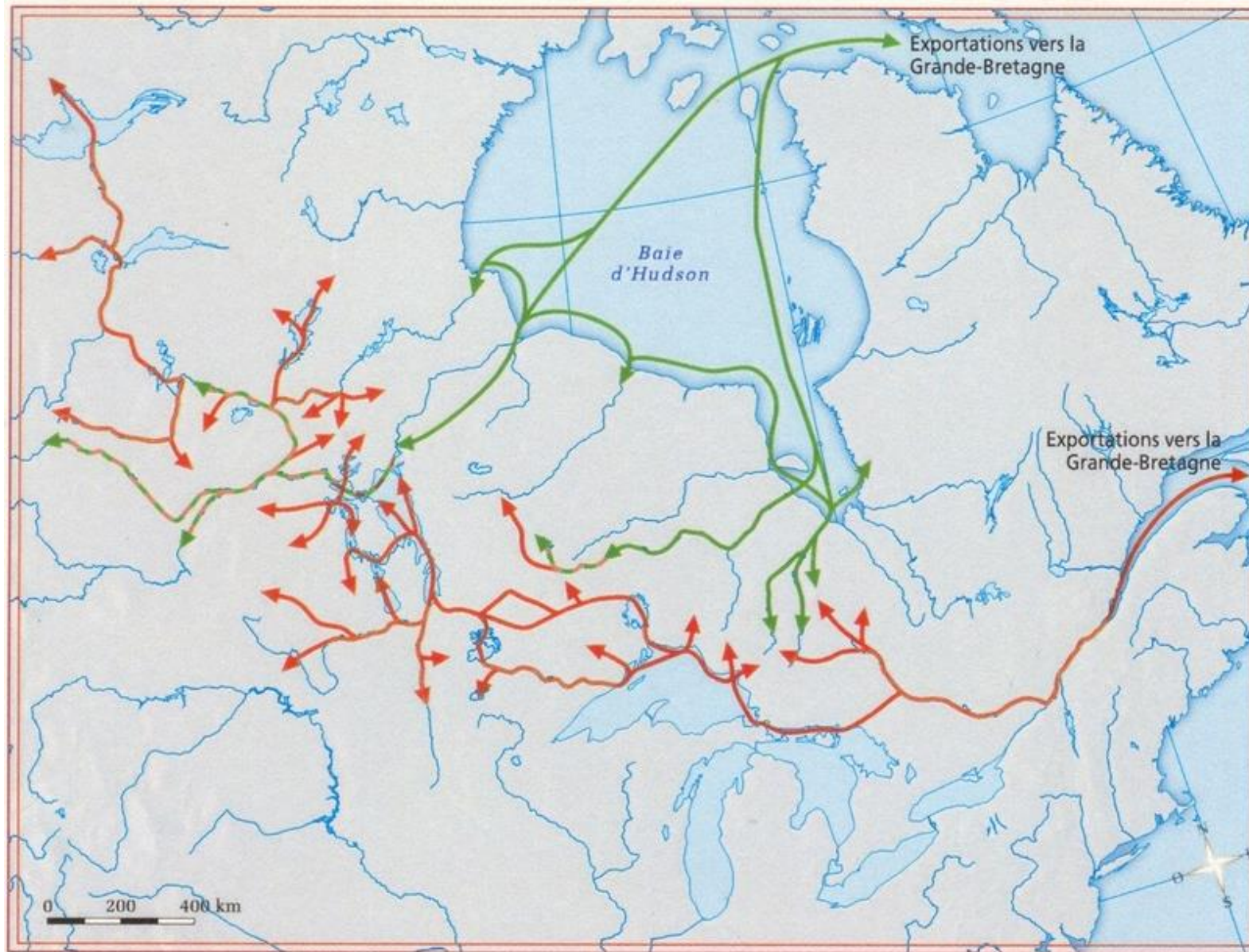
THE ACCOMMODATION, 1809

This steamship, built at Montreal by John Molson, was the first in
Canada

*The Accommodation took 66 hours to travel
from Montréal to Québec.*

Fur trade





Fur trading routes, from 1774 to 1789



C.W. Jefferys 90

Decline of the fur trade in the early 1800's:

Factors:

- ▶ Increasingly remote trading territories
- ▶ ↑ operating costs
- ▶ Silk replaces beaver felt in hat-making
- ▶ ↑ expenses due to wars in Europe.

Effects:

- ▶ In 1821, takeover of the NWC by the HBC (merger)
- ▶ Replacement of Montréal by Hudson Bay as the main place of export
- ▶ **In 1791, about 50% of Lower Canada's exports to Great Britain were furs. By 1810, furs accounted for only 9% of the exports of Upper and Lower Canada.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What trade replaced the fur trade in terms of importance?

- A. *The timber trade*
- B. *The maple syrup trade*
- C. *The wheat trade*

Timber trade

ECONOMIC CHANGE

DECLINE OF THE FUR TRADE



Napoleonic Wars / Continental Blockade (1806)



Napoléon Bonaparte (French Emperor)

PROTECTIONISM

Great Britain favoured buying resources within its empire to protect its economy.



PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS

Great Britain placed a low duty (import tax) on resources imported from the colonies like Canadian lumber.



Bois embarqué au port de Québec pour l'Angleterre

Tonnes

350 000

300 000

250 000

200 000

150 000

100 000

50 000

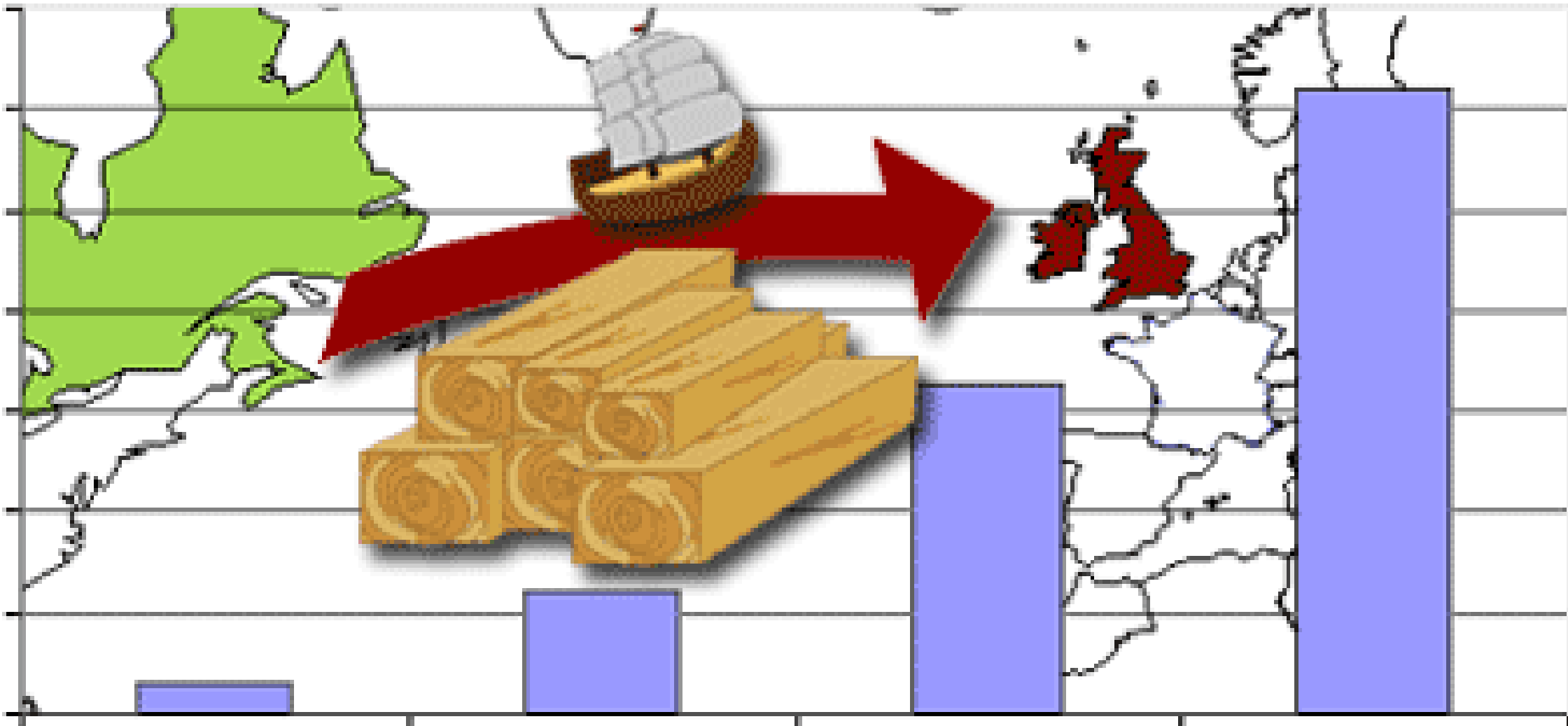
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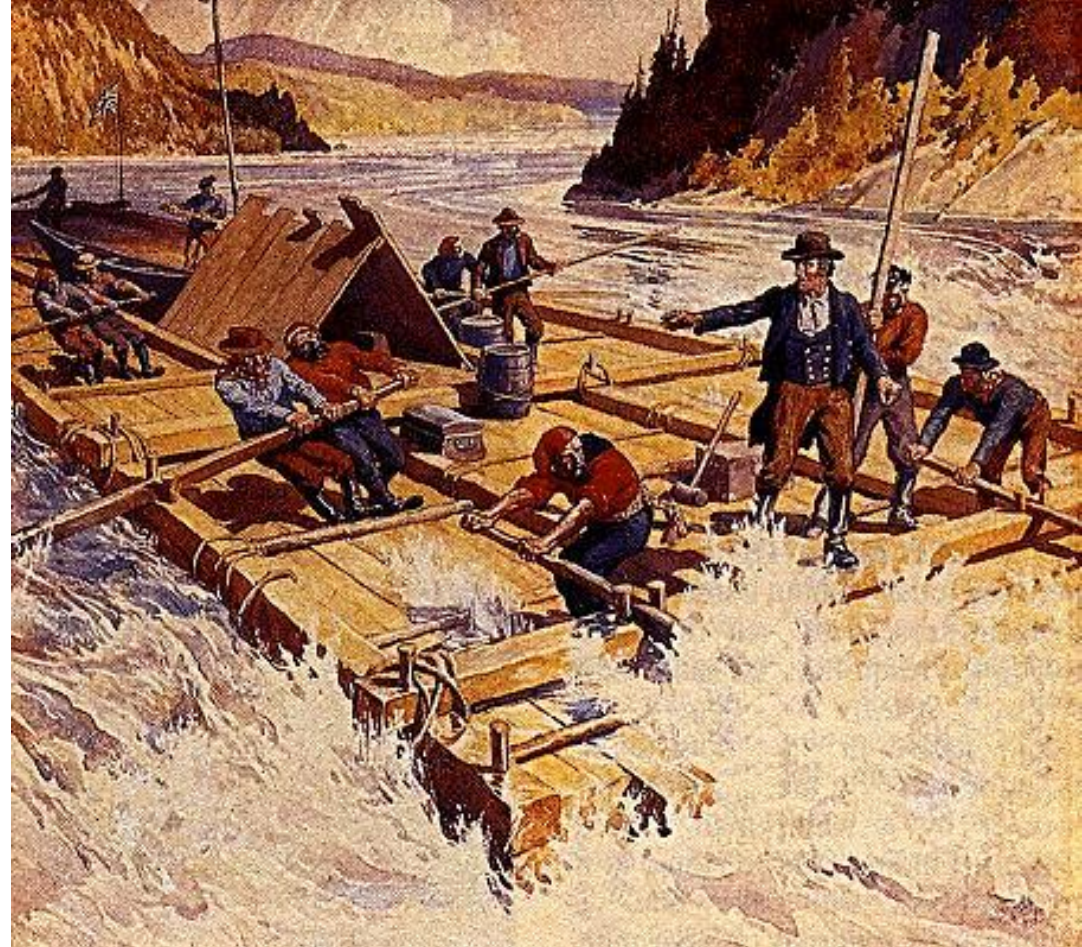
1812

1822

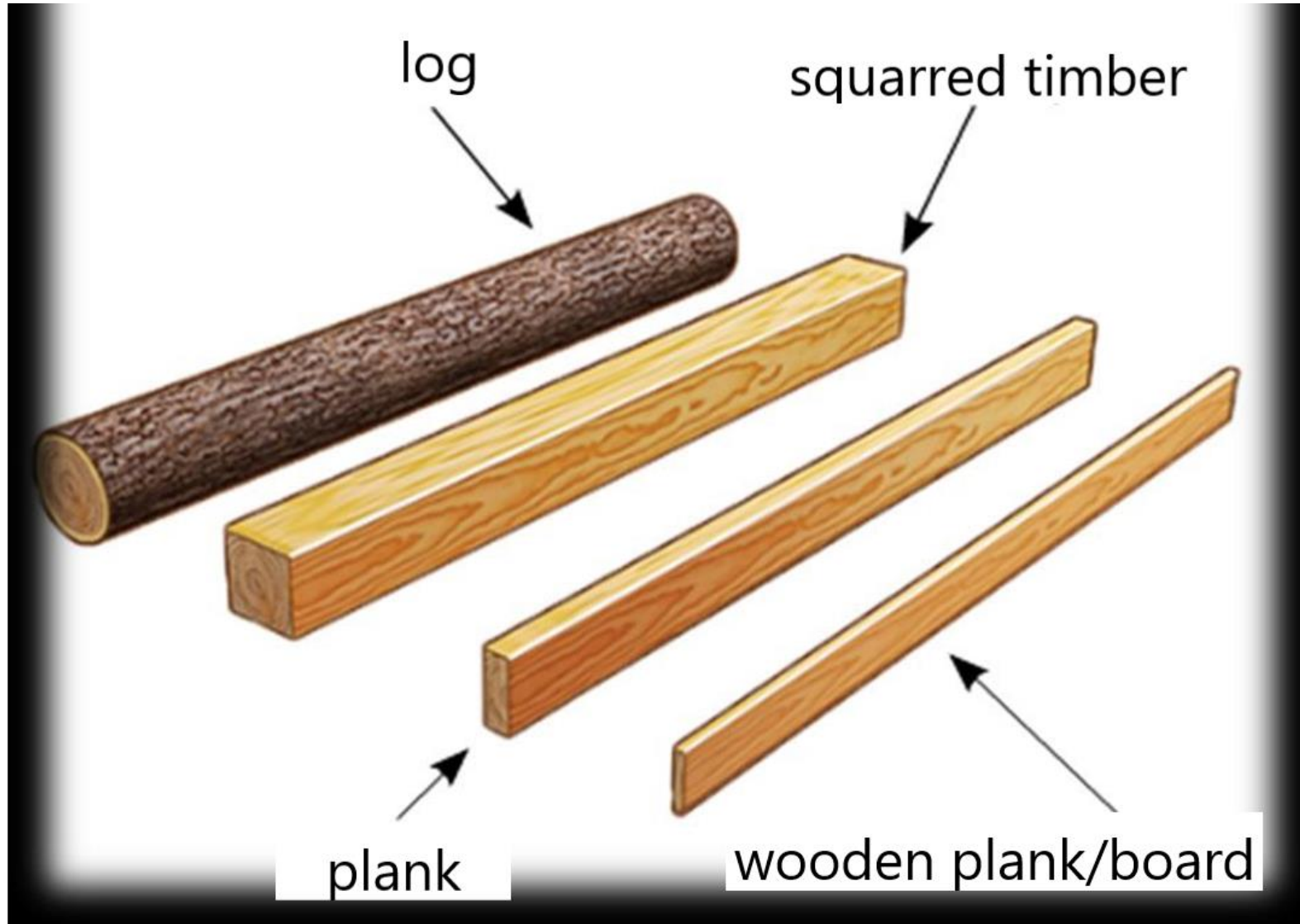
1832

1842

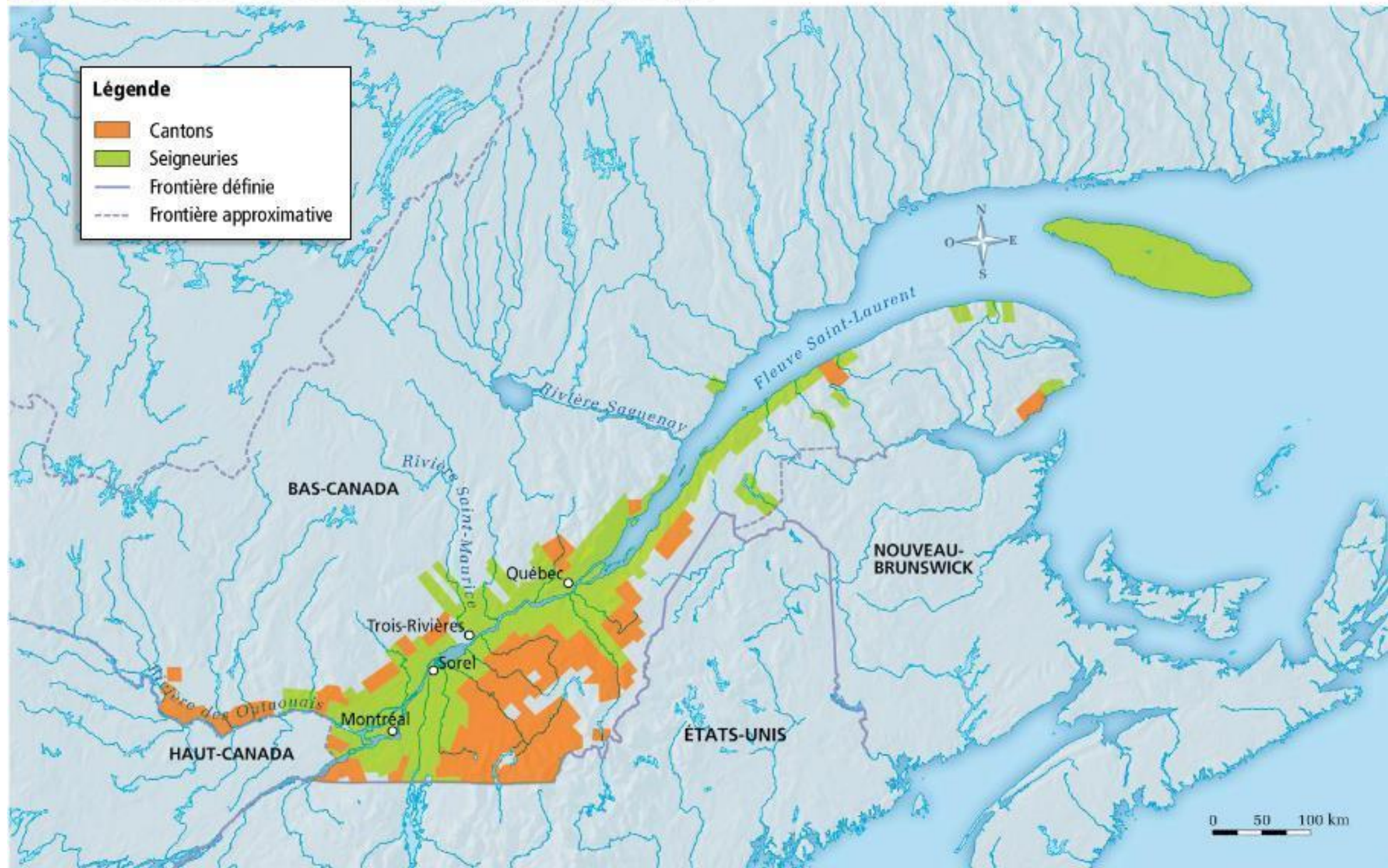




Wood transformation



Agriculture



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What was the main crop exported from Canada to Great Britain in the beginning of the 19th century?

- A. *Corn*
- B. *Wheat*
- C. *Potatoes*

Agriculture in Lower Canada

- ▶ Most farmers are *Canadiens* in the **St. Lawrence Valley**
- ▶ Farmers of British origin or Loyalists were in the Eastern Townships (creation of townships)
- ▶ **After 1803**, agriculture - especially wheat production - gradually **declined** (↓)
- ▶ **Series of bad harvests** due to poor weather, infertile land, old-fashioned methods and outdated equipment
- ▶ **Seigneuries became overcrowded:**
 - Some *habitants* migrated to live in the towns
 - Others settled in new areas like the Mauricie or the Saguenay
 - Others emigrated to the U.S.

Agriculture in Upper Canada

- ▶ Settlers brought new farming techniques and used better equipment
- ▶ **Milder climate**
- ▶ **More fertile soils**
- ▶ **Surpluses - especially wheat - were exported to Great Britain.**



ECONOMIC CHANGE

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN LOWER CANADA (1830's)



Lopin de terre en défrichement © Lamontagne et Duchesne www.prologue.qc.ca

Subsistence farming

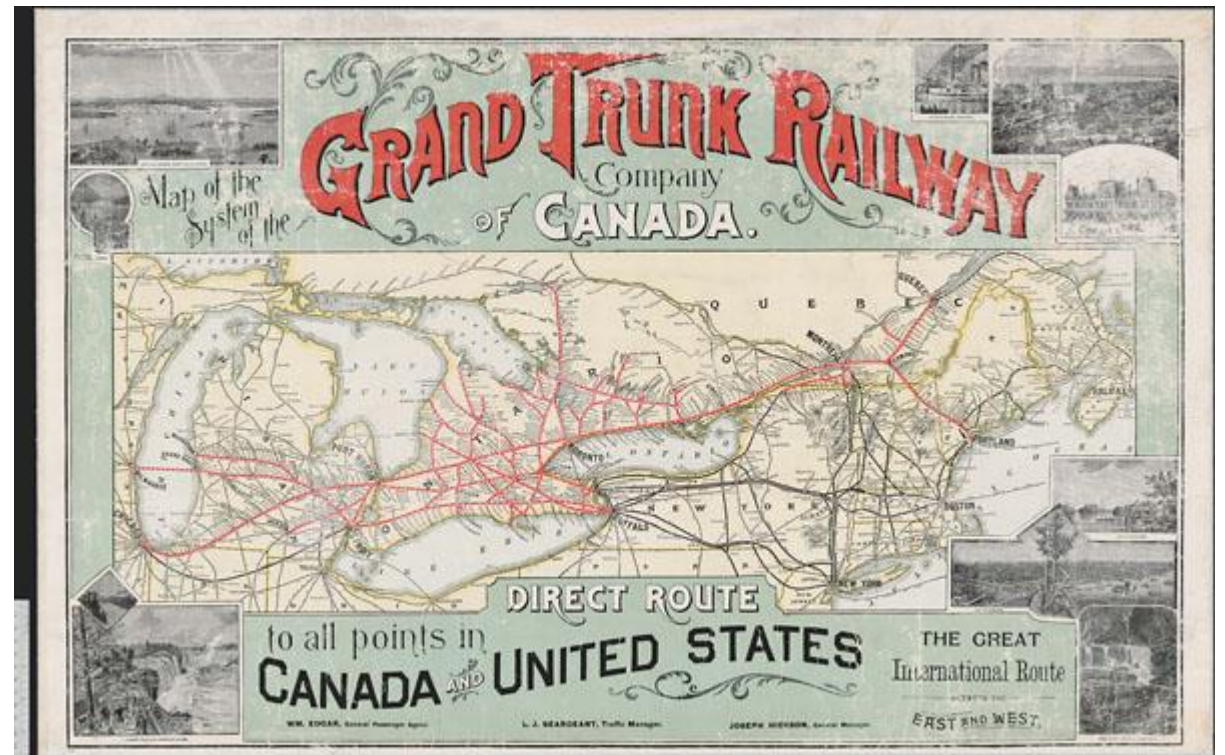
Capital and infrastructure

ECONOMIC CHANGE *CONSTRUCTION BOOM*

Canals and locks
(1820-1850)



Railways and roads
(1820-1850)

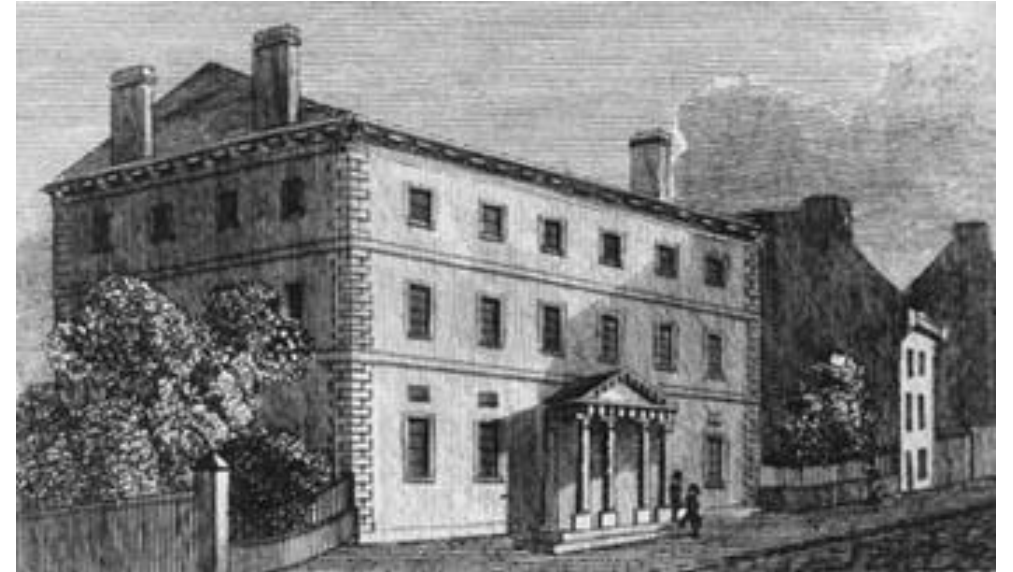


QUESTION

What was the name of the first financial institution (bank) created in Lower Canada?

Creation of banks

- At the beginning of the 19th century, half a dozen different currencies were in use in the British colonies (e.g. currency of Spain)
- Financial institutions were created to:
 - simplify financial transactions (too many different currencies in use)
 - help merchants yield profits by gathering their capital (\$)
 - simplify currency exchanges, loans and the issue of paper-money bills
 - involved in financing transportation infrastructure like roads, bridges, railways and canals.



BMO - Bank of Montréal (1817)

Nationalisms

CURRENT OF THOUGHT: NATIONALISM

- A political ideology that identifies a nation as a group of people sharing common characteristics
- It also indicates an individual's sense of belonging to a nation.

British nationalism

***Canadien* nationalism**

Key
cultural
elements
(identity)

- 1) *Imperialism (political, cultural, economic or military domination of a nation over another)***
- 2) *Establishing British values, political traditions and culture in Canadian society***
- 3) *Assimilation of Canadiens (make them good and loyal British subjects)***

- 1) *Catholic religion***
 - 2) *French civil laws***
 - 3) *Public use of the French language***
- Popular assemblies around Montréal (1834-1837)**
 - Political clubs**
 - Patriotic associations like the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste***

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What is the name of this very influential politician of Lower Canada?

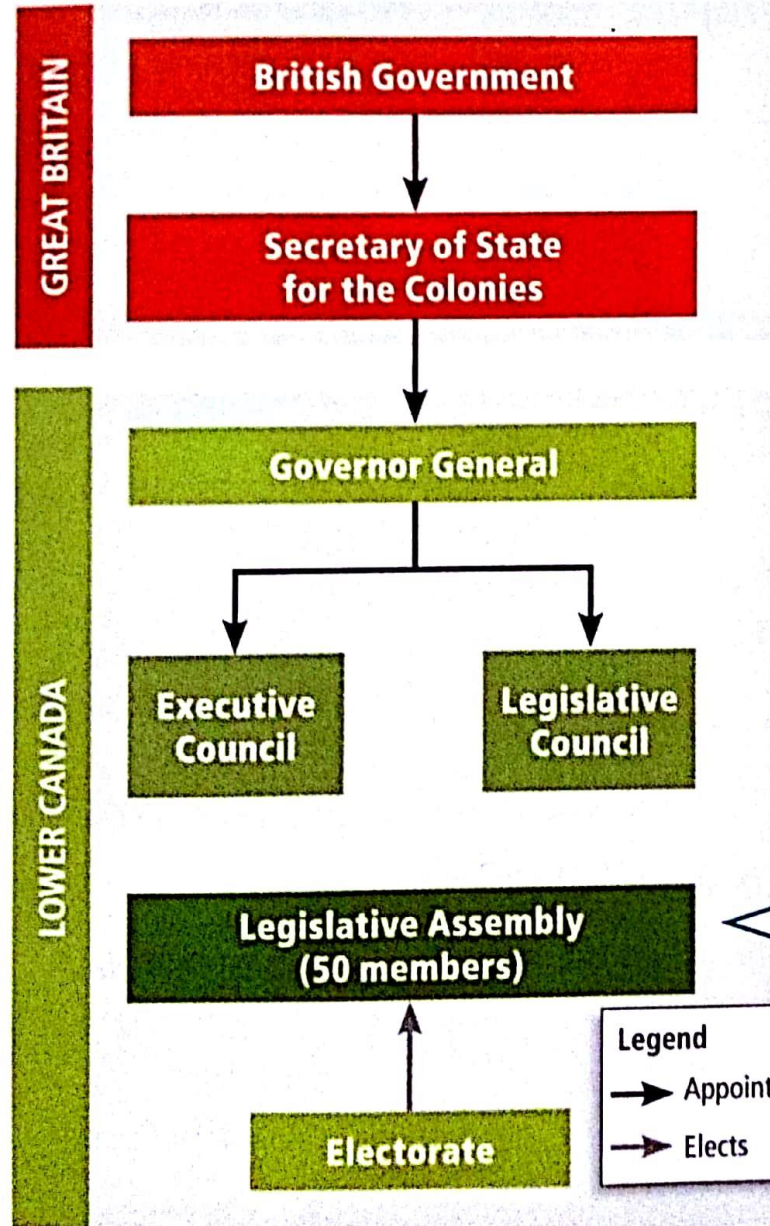
- A. *Louis-Justin Trudeau*
- B. *Louis-Hyppolite Lafontaine*
- C. *Louis-Joseph Papineau*



Political struggles in Lower Canada (1791-1830)



The organization of the government of Lower Canada, 1791–1840



As of 1805, the politicians of Lower Canada split into two parties.

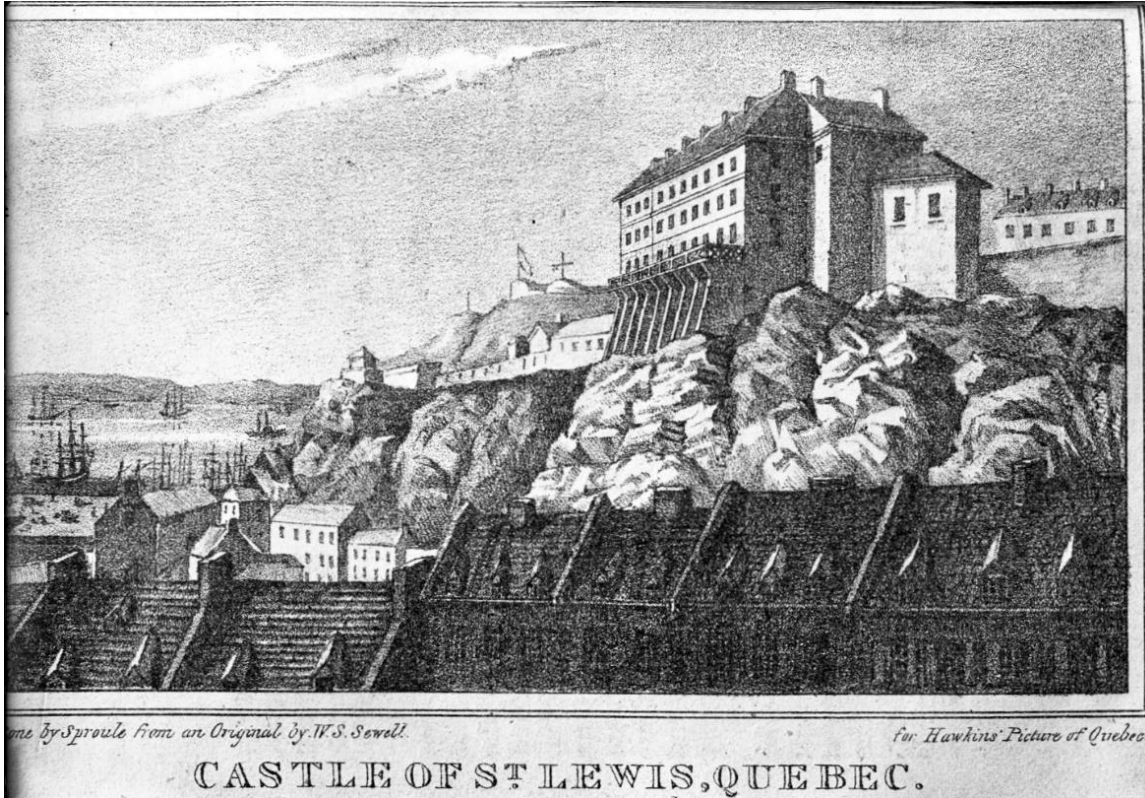
Tory Party

- Governor general
- Most of the council members
- British members (who made up a minority in the Legislative Assembly)

Parti canadien

- Members, primarily *Canadien* (who made up a majority in the Legislative Assembly)
- Became the ***Parti patriote*** in 1826

British Party / Tories / "Château clique"



Thomas Storrow Brown



Dr. Wolfred Nelson

Parti canadien / Parti patriote



- ▶ Louis-Joseph Papineau – a leader of the *Patriotes*
- ▶ Nationalism
- ▶ Republicanism
- ▶ Opposed imperialism

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What is the title of the official document presented by the *Parti patriote* in 1834 that listed their complaints and demands?

- A. *The 10 Resolutions*
- B. *The 92 Resolutions*
- C. *The 101 Resolutions*



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

What was the main demand contained in the 92 Resolutions?

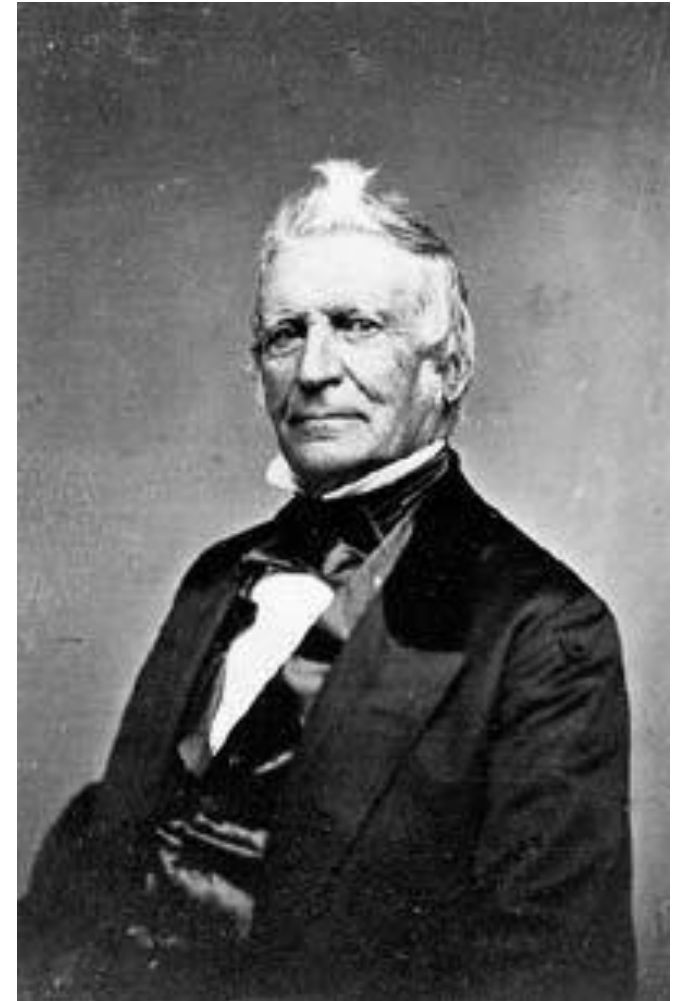
- A. *Responsible government*
- B. *Irresponsible government*
- C. *The right to do your hair like Tintin*



The *Parti patriote* and demands of *Canadiens*

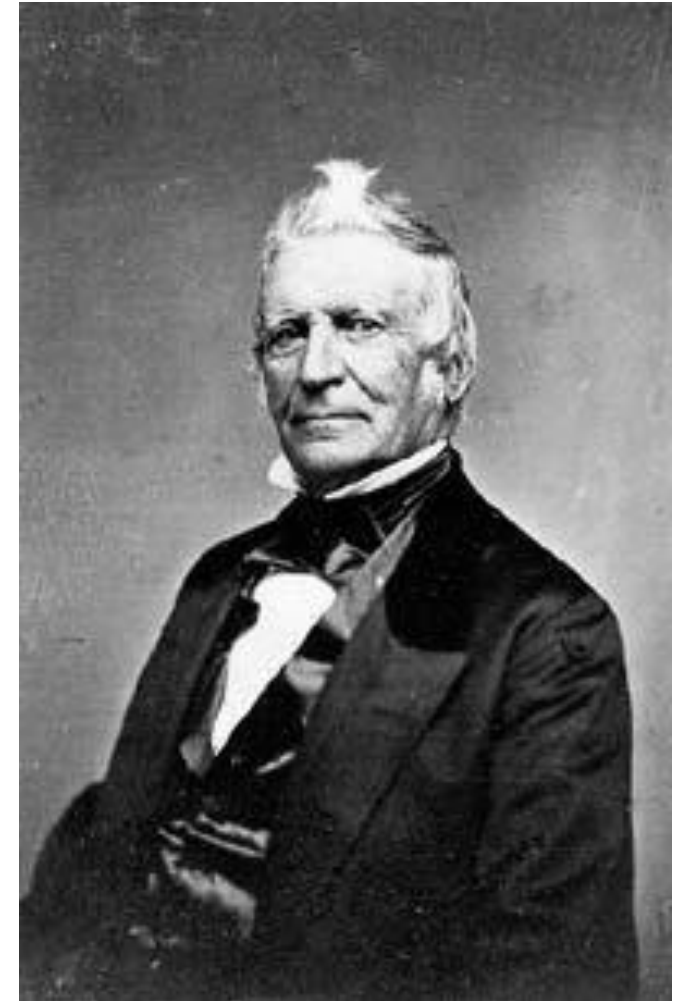
In **1834**, the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada issued the **92 Resolutions**: a list of *Patriotes'* complaints and demands.

The official document denounced the **inefficiency of the administration and the justice system** as well as the **corruption and the injustices of a system that benefitted the British minority**.



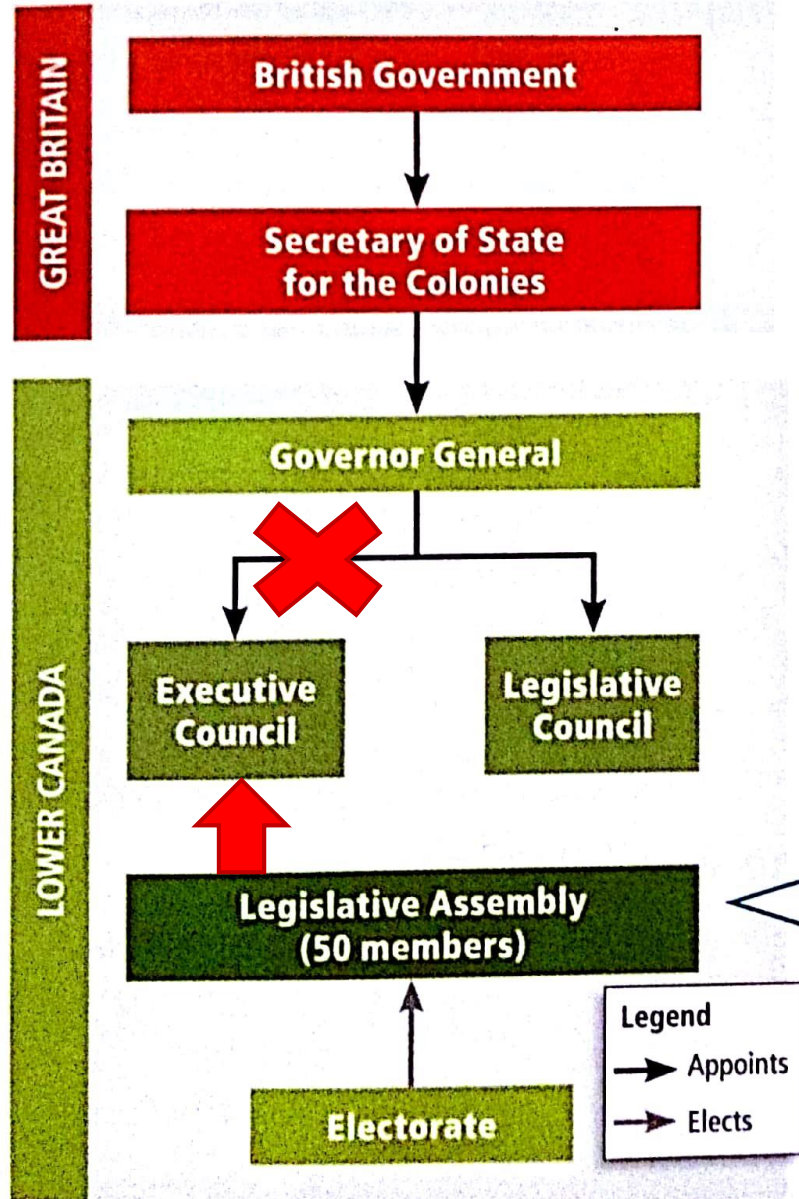
The *Parti patriote* and demands of *Canadiens*

- Main demand: **responsible government**
 - If ministers of the Executive Council were chosen from elected members of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly, they would have to make responsible decisions or they would be thrown out at the next election
 - Ministers of a responsible government have to respond to the needs and desires of the people if they wish to **remain in power**.



The organization of the government of Lower Canada, 1791–1840

Responsible government



The *Parti patriote* and demands of *Canadiens*

- In **1834**, Governor Aylmer **rejected the 92 Resolutions** and disbanded the Legislative Assembly
- Elections were held in the fall of 1834. Lower Canada voters supported massively the *Parti patriote* who won **78 out of 84 seats in the Assembly.**



Lord Russell's 10 Resolutions (1837)

- In **1837**, in response to the 92 Resolutions, London adopted the **10 Resolutions**, presented by Lord Russell, the British Secretary of State to the colonies
- The 10 Resolutions **turned down all of the *Patriotes'* requests**
- *Canadien* deputies realize that there will be no reform of political institutions in Lower Canada. This decision from London angered the *Parti patriote*.



Rebellions of 1837-1838

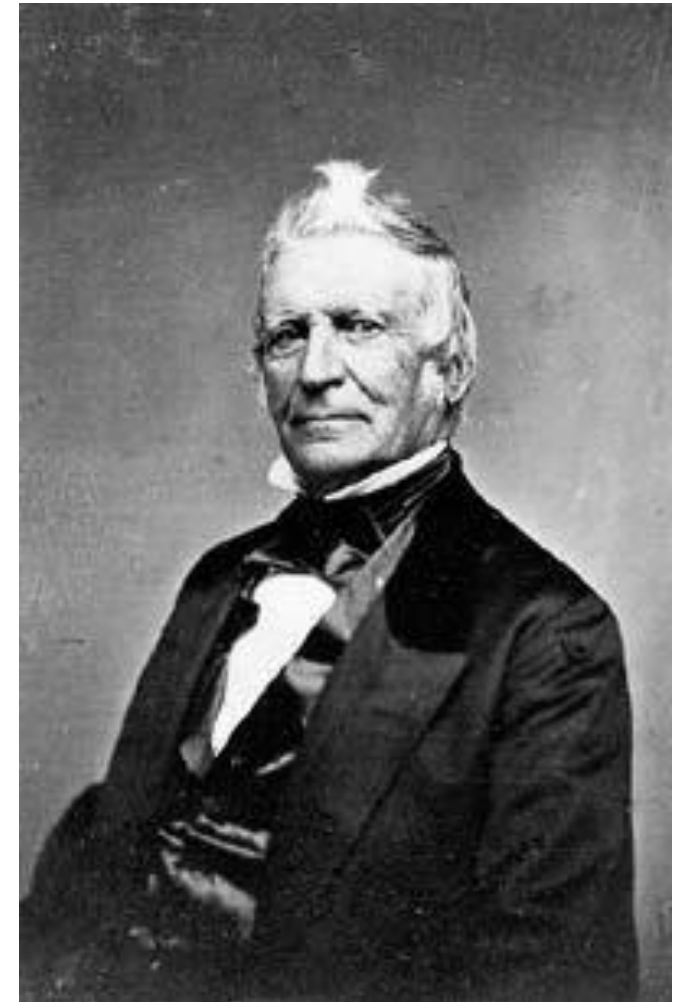
Rebellions of 1837-1838



Patriotes organized public meetings and popular assemblies

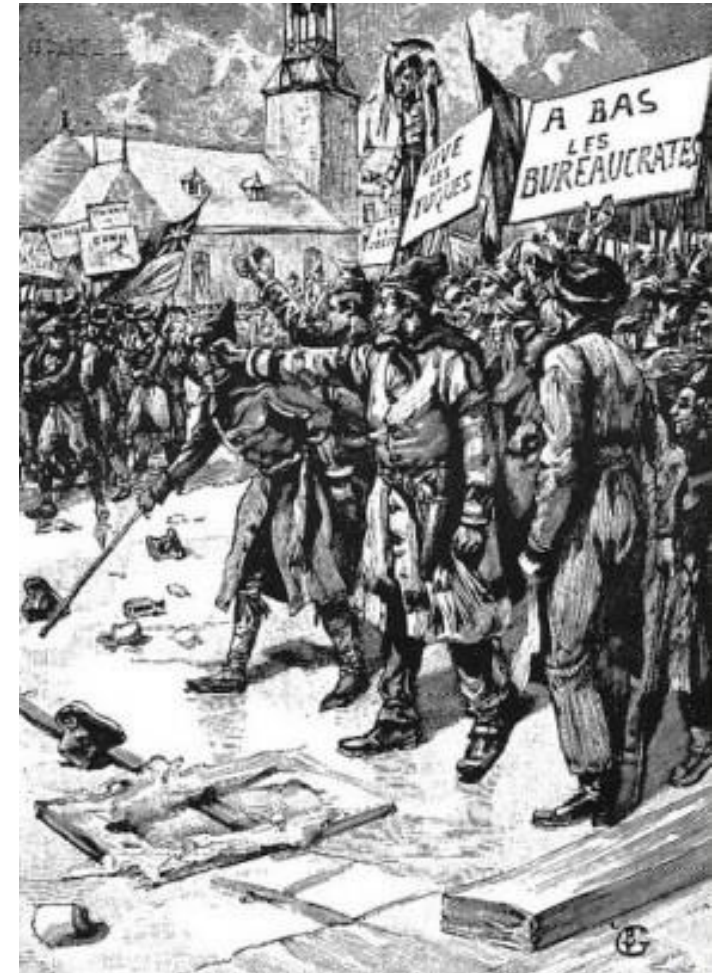
Rebellions of 1837-1838

- Louis-Joseph Papineau proposed a **boycott** (refusal to buy products as a form of protest) of products imported from GB in order to destabilize British merchants. He was against taking up arms to fight the British authorities
- As a form of retaliation, Governor Gosford used **repressive measures** to prevent rebellions: in June 1837, he forbade popular assemblies. Regardless, the *Patriotes* organized the *assemblée des Six Comtés* on October 23. Gosford issued an **arrest warrant for high treason against 26 Patriote leaders**
- When the *Patriote* deputies in the Legislative Assembly **refused to vote on the budget**, which paralyzed the government, the Governor reacted by dissolving the Parliament.



Rebellions of 1837-1838

- The “Doric Club” was created, a group of radical Anglophones who wanted to take up arms to fight the *Patriotes*
- In response, some radical members of the *Parti patriote* founded an association, the “*Fils de la liberté*”, in September 1837. They urged their members to take up arms to fight for the cause.

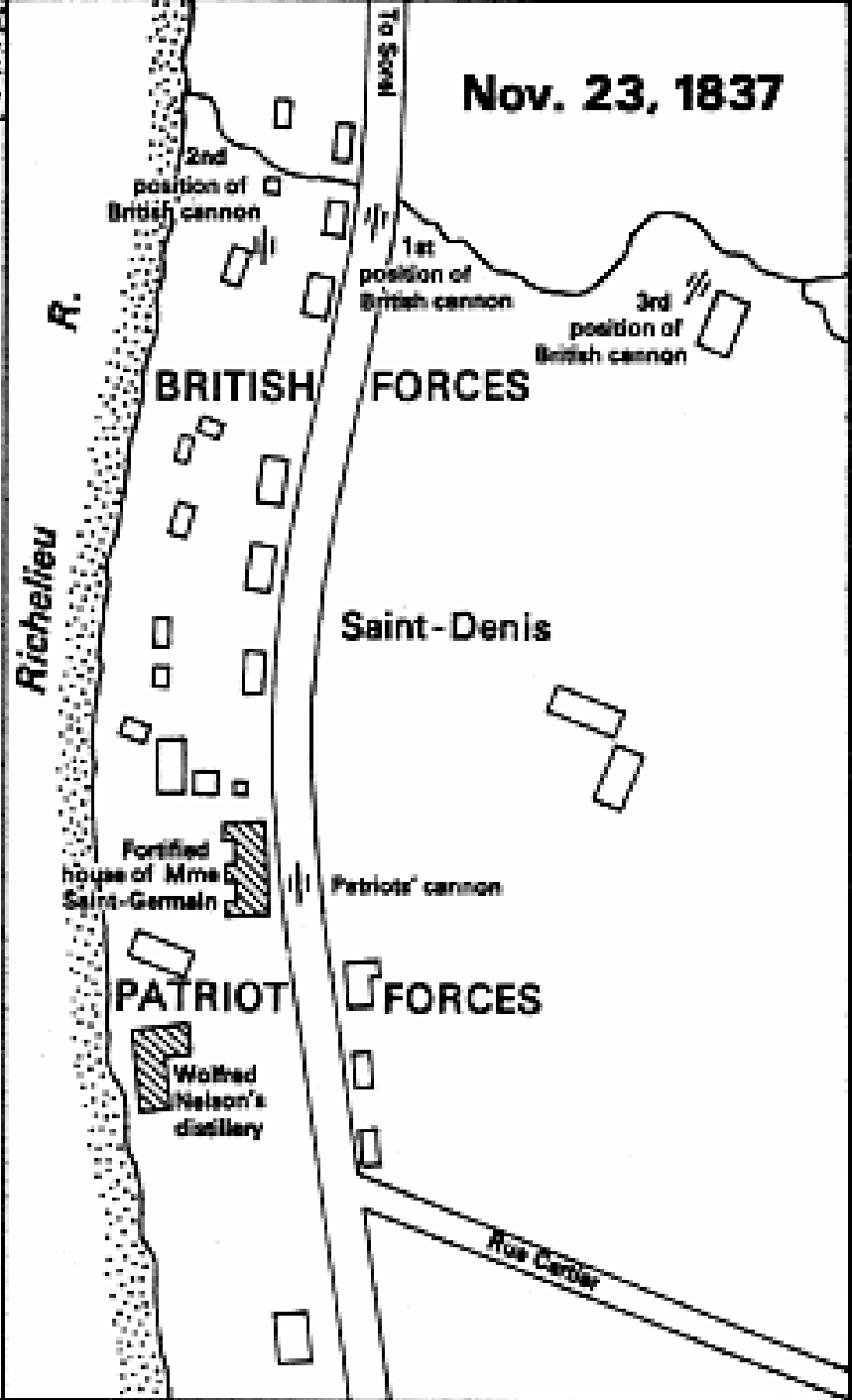
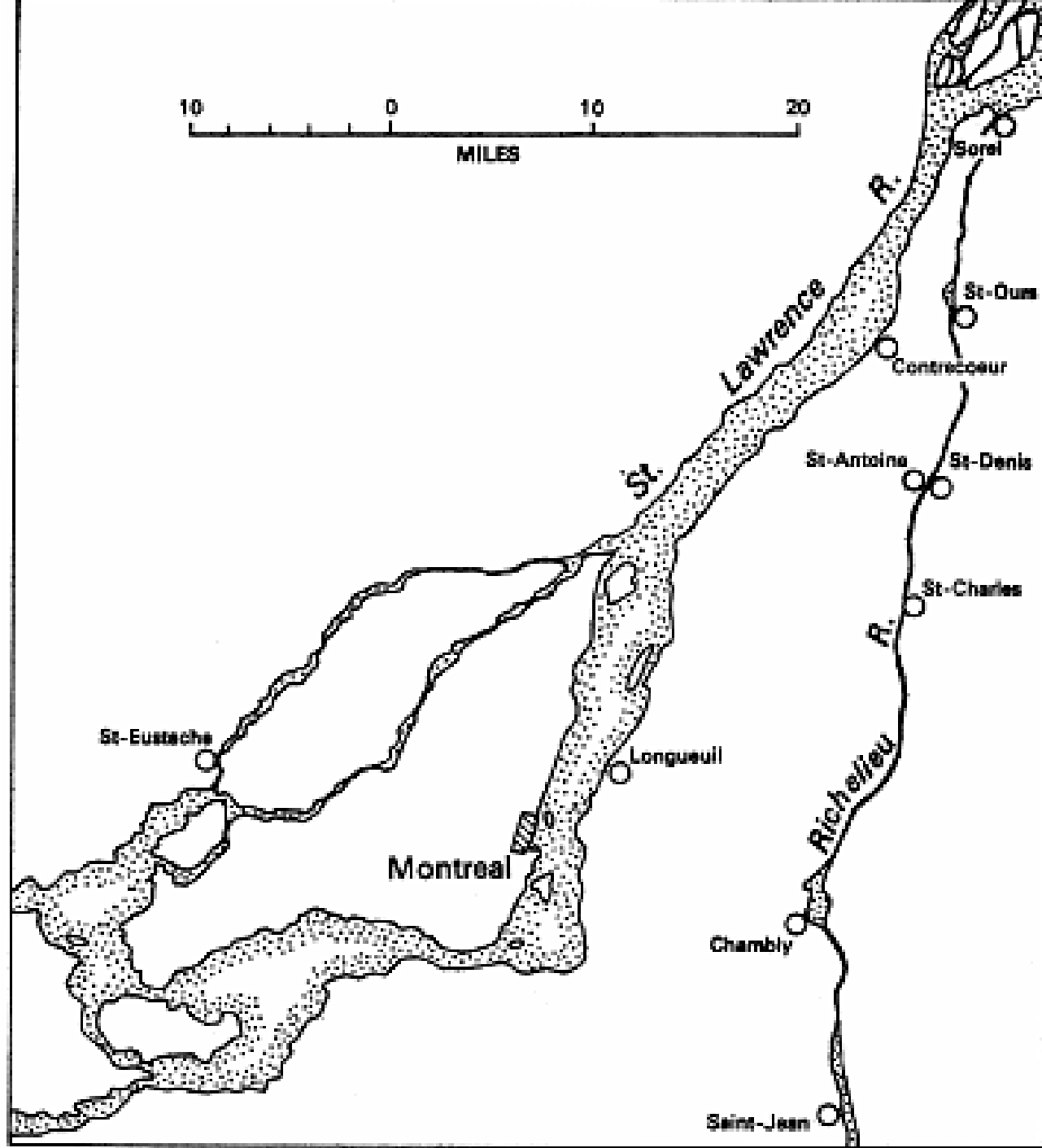


British troops fighting the *Patriotes* during the rebellions of 1837-1838



In December 1837, 250 *Patriotes* died in Saint-Eustache after facing 1,200 British soldiers and loyalist militias.

Nov. 23, 1837



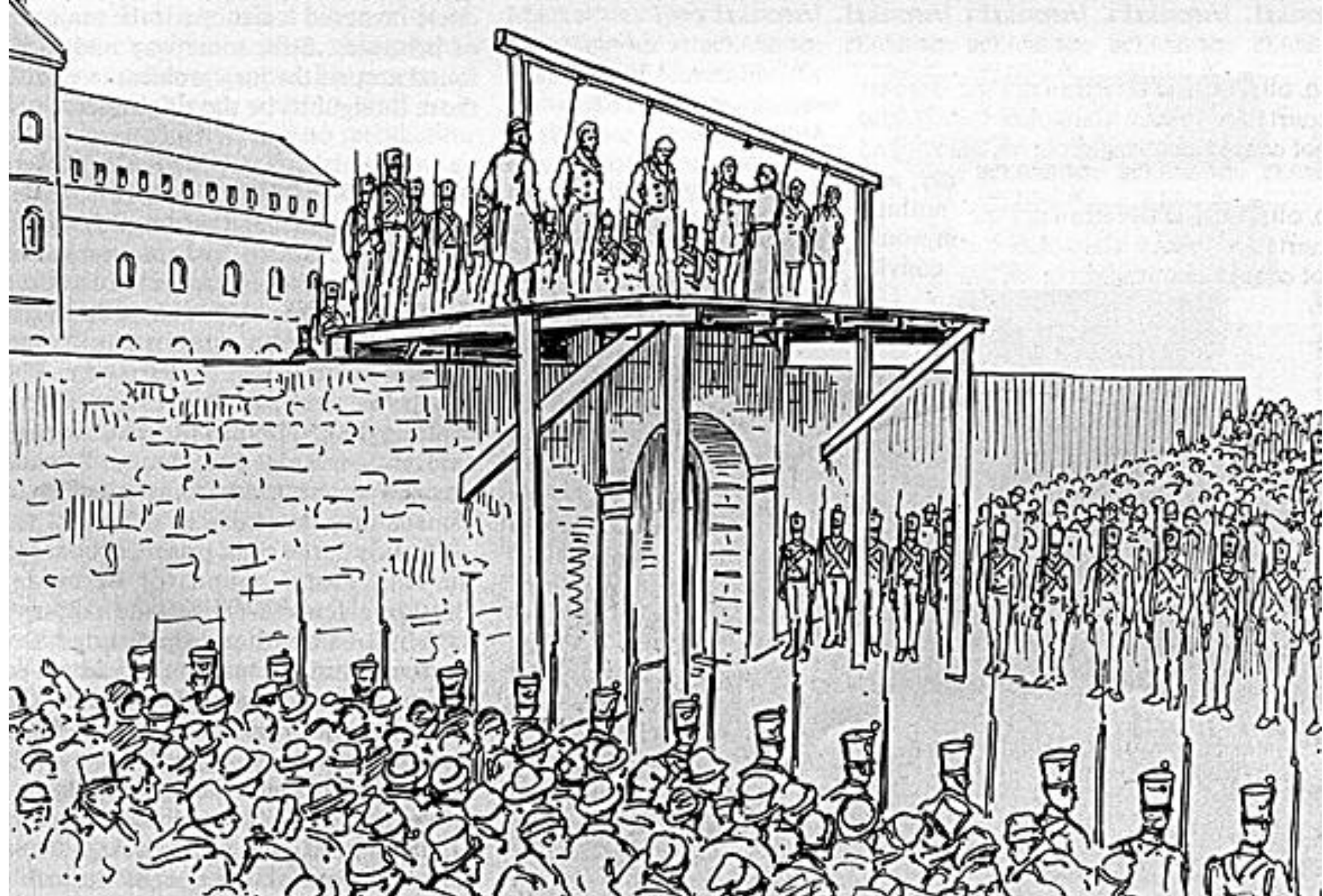


Results of the rebellions in Lower Canada:

- ▶ By the fall of 1838, the *Patriotes* were defeated and the rebellion had failed
- ▶ 100 men were sentenced to death. Of this number, 58 were **deported** to Australia, 12 were **hung** in Montréal and others were later **set free**
- ▶ **Lord Durham** was sent by the British government to investigate the causes of the rebellions.

Reasons for the failure of the rebellions in Lower Canada:

- ▶ **Not much active support** outside of the Montréal area. Only 8,000 men took up arms
- ▶ **No support from the clergy** because the *Patriotes* wanted to separate the Church and the State
- ▶ **Poorly organized** and **poorly equipped** compared to the British army.





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Papineau (Montréal Metro)

Durham Report (1839)

Lord Durham's recommendations (1839)



Lord Durham's recommendations (1839)

The Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were dissolved by the British authorities. London put in place the Special Council, which governed Lower Canada from 1838 to 1840. There were no elected representatives on the Council. London also appointed a new governor general, Lord Durham. He was mandated to investigate the events of 1837–1838, identify the causes of the rebellions and propose solutions to the crisis. In January 1839, Durham finished his report and submitted it to the British authorities.

Causes of the rebellions

- 1) *The power of elected representatives to pass laws could be thwarted by the Councils (reject laws).*
- 2) *The majority of elected representatives in the Assembly of Lower Canada were French Canadians. Their interests were often incompatible with the interests of the British authorities.*
- 3) *The majority of the population was French Canadian. They refused to be dominated by the British.*

Proposed solutions

- 1) ***Establish a responsible government*** in order to stop the confrontations between the elected representatives and the Councils.
- 2) ***Unite the 2 Canadas and merge the 2 Assemblies into one Assembly dominated by the British.***
- 3) ***Make English the only official language***
- 4) ***Massive British immigration so that the French Canadians become a minority in Canada.***

Reactions of the British

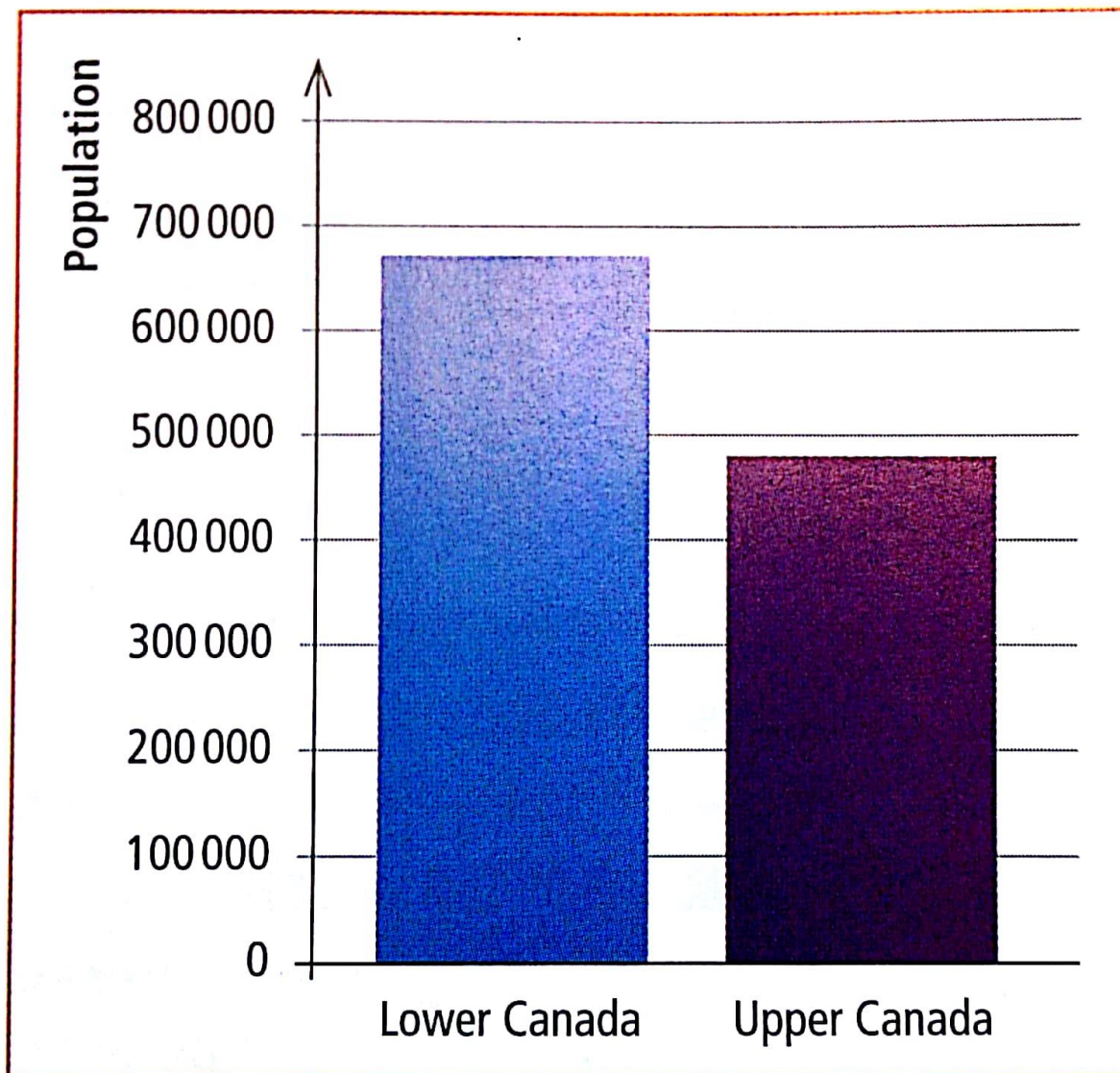
- 1) *Divided on the question of **responsible government**. Rich businessmen were **opposed** because they would likely lose their influence over the authorities. However, **Reformists supported** this recommendation of Durham.*
- 2) ***Favorable to the union of the 2 Canadas** because it could stimulate the economy and insure their majority in the population and in the Assembly.*

Reactions of the *Canadiens*

- 1) ***Favorable to a responsible government***
- 2) ***Against the union of the 2 Canadas** which would make French Canadians the minority*
- 3) ***Felt like their language, culture and institutions were threatened.***

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The population of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, 1840



Data from: *Censuses of Lower Canada and Upper Canada*, Statistics Canada.