

Canada West

In the mid 1800s, Canada West is a colony rich in farmland and forests. Farms are becoming more prosperous and new farm machinery makes the backbreaking work easier. Daniel Massey at Newcastle and Alanson Harris at Beamsville are producing ploughs and horse-drawn mechanical reapers. The two businesses will eventually form the large farm equipment firm of Massey-Harris.

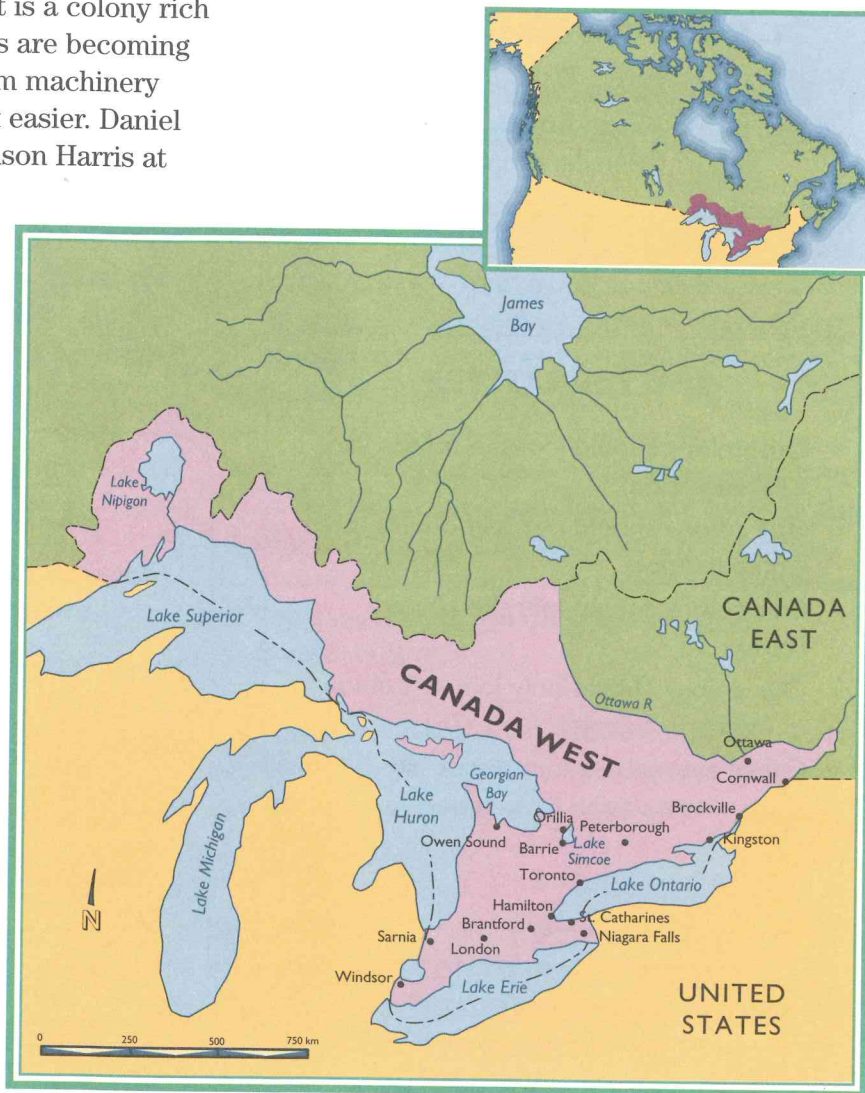
Other new industries are also becoming established. Small manufacturing companies are producing woollen and leather goods, glass, paint, carriages, and furniture. More goods are being manufactured to compete with imported products from Britain and the United States.

More than 80% of the people live in the rural areas, but the cities and towns are growing rapidly. Toronto is the largest city. There are problems, however. Men, women, and even children work long hours in dangerous jobs in the factories. There are no laws to protect them. Unemployment is very high, especially in the winter when construction projects stop.

Drunkenness is a serious social problem. In Toronto alone, in 1850, there are 152 taverns and 206 beer shops. Heavy drinking often leads to violence and crime. Riots and street fights are common. People are hurt and even killed and property is damaged.

Special Problems

1. Good farmland in Canada West is becoming scarce. Young people who want to start



farming often have to go to the American West to find available land. People are saying that it is time the Hudson's Bay Company opened its vast western lands for settlement.

2. Political deadlock makes it impossible to get many bills passed through the Assembly.
3. The population of Canada West is now greater than that of Canada East. People in Canada West want representation by population to gain a stronger voice in the Assembly. Many people feel that the existing government favours Canada East.