

- Confederation opened up the possibility of expanding to the West. Lands held by the Hudson's Bay Company could be easily annexed to Canada opening a way to B.C.
- Canadians were suspicious of American intentions ever since the idea of **Manifest Destiny**, which claimed the destiny of the United States was to own all of North America.
- The **American Civil War (1861-1865)** heightened the threat. By the end of the war the victorious Northern states had an army that was larger than the entire population of Canada.
- There was fear that the Americans would invade because Britain had supported the South during the war. The small scattered BNA colonies had barely any defences that could hold off a determined American invasion.

#### The Promise of Better Government

- The government of the Province of Canada was filled with independent members who answered to no one. These members could topple a government by voting against one of its bills which they did often. There were 12 different governments over only 15 years.
- Political parties were formed to represent the interests of the English & French. Parties developed a platform, which described their beliefs and policies.
- The four major parties were:
  - **Parti Rouge** – led by Louis Joseph Papineau, Canada East
  - **Parti Bleu** – led by George-Etienne Cartier, Canada East
  - **Tories** – led by John A. MacDonald, Canada West
  - **Clear Grits** – led by George Brown, Canada West
- The Grits wanted representation by population, where places with larger populations have more representatives in government. "**Rep. by pop.**" meant fewer seats for French Canadians.
- Government was slowed down with the problem of **double majority**. It meant that a bill only became a law if a majority in both Canada East & West voted for it in the Assembly.

#### Confederation Achieved

- The colonies were more willing to make a deal with economic depression and the threats of the USA a reality.
- New Brunswick & Nova Scotia both had responsible government and were dependant on ship building & trade with the USA.
- There was resistance to joining Confederation, but with the USA ending **reciprocity** (free trade between CAN/USA) and ship building changing from wood to steel, Confederation looked better.
- An Irish organization known as the **Fenians** planned to attack the British Empire. Various attacks took place in the BNA colonies. MacDonald used these raids to gain support for Confederation.