

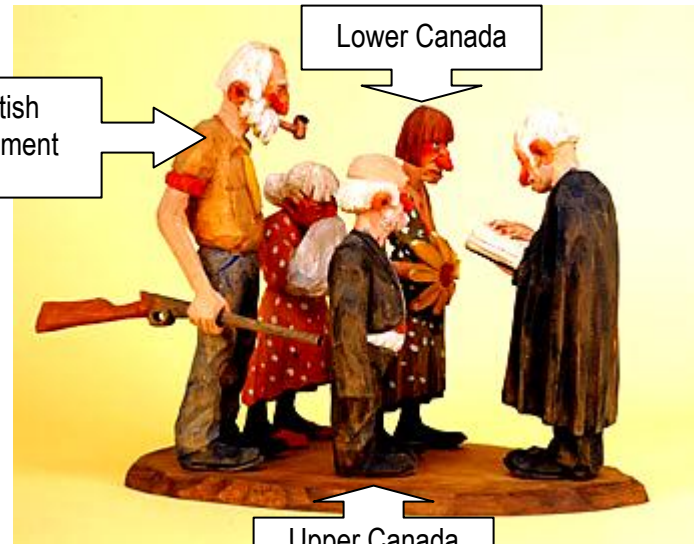
The Union Act

a.k.a. A shotgun Wedding

- Remember that **before the 1837-8 Rebellions** the “Canadas” were divided into Upper Canada (because of its location at the top of the St. Lawrence) and Lower Canada.

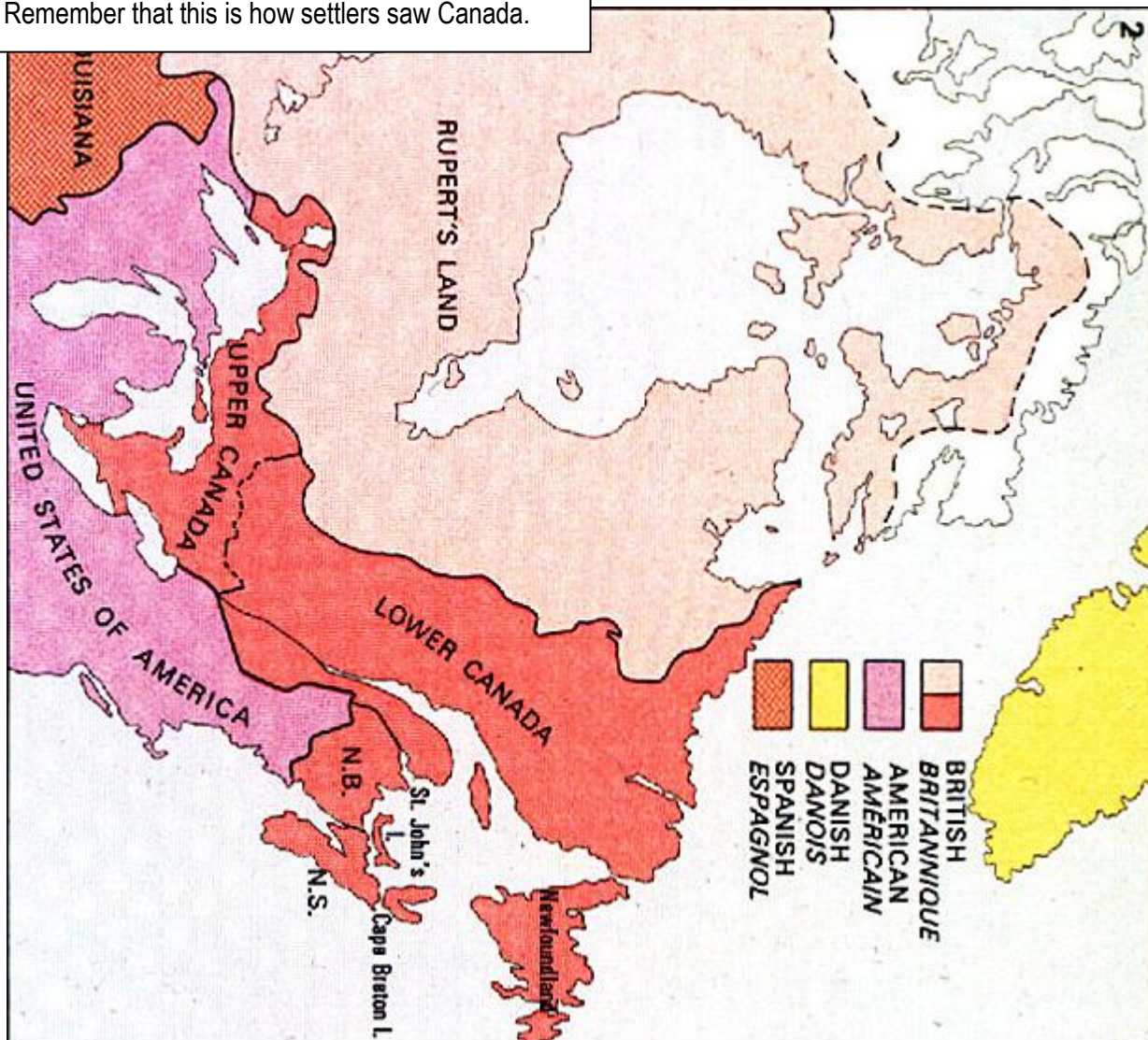
Upper Canada = Largely English and Largely Protestant

Lower Canada = Largely French and Largely Catholic



The other colonies of British North America included New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, St. John's Island (would become Prince Edward Island in 1798), Cape Breton Island (joined with Nova Scotia in 1820) and Newfoundland. These colonies all saw themselves as **separate entities with different identities and cultures**.

Remember that this is how settlers saw Canada.



"Lower Canada must be English, at the expense, if necessary, of not being British."

- Lord Durham in his report to the British Government

- After the 1837-8 rebellions Lord Durham was dispatched to British North America after being appointed governor general. After serving for one year he issued a report to the British Government on what he thought needed to be done in order to avoid further unrest:
 - Upper and Lower Canada must be united as one province to assure the economic health of the two territories and to dilute the political power of the French.
- On July 23rd, 1840, the British Parliament passed the Act of Union, uniting the two colonies into one Province of Canada (Upper Canada was renamed "Canada West" and Lower Canada became "Canada East").
- Reading over some of the articles of the Act of Union, can you see any areas that might cause the French Canadiens and/or English Canadians concern?

Art. 3. There shall be one Legislative Council and one Assembly. "Her Majesty shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the said Legislative Council and Assembly, to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of the Province of Canada. "

Art. 12. In the Legislative Assembly of the Province "the parts of the said Province which now constitute the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada shall [. . .] be represented by an equal number of representatives ."

Art. 13 to 17. divide the Electoral districts of Upper Canada in such a way as to multiply their former number .

Art. 18 to 20 regroup the Electoral districts of Lower Canada in such a way as to reduce their former number .

Art. 41. All official journals, entries and written or printed proceedings of the Council or the Assembly, all writs of summons and elections and all writs of public documents "shall be in the English language only: Provided always, that this enactment shall not be construed to prevent translated copies of any such documents being made, but no such copy shall be kept among the records of the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly, or be deemed to have the force of an original record."

Art. 42. Final adjudication regarding Ecclesiastical (clergy reserves, Roman Catholic tithes, etc.) or Crown Rights (Crown reserves) shall rest with the Parliament of Great Britain.

Art. 50. All duties and revenues of Upper and Lower Canada "shall form one consolidated revenue fund to be appropriated for the public services of the Province of Canada."

Art. 55. The public debts of Upper and Lower Canada are consolidated into one.

Population Trends

