

clashes occur, but many working arrangements to ease the movement of lumber were also developed between Maine and New Brunswick residents.

New Brunswick has a larger land area (17,863,040 acres) than Nova Scotia (13,483,520 acres). Originally both areas were heavily forested, and as late as 1930 over 89 per cent of New Brunswick and 72 per cent of Nova Scotia were classified as forested.<sup>5</sup> Both areas support a mixed forest with softwoods predominating. Probably New Brunswick initially had more white pine than Nova Scotia; many sources list the red spruce as the characteristic tree of the latter province. Much of Nova Scotia's forested area was cleared long before that of New Brunswick.

The dates of settlement and population size indicate why this was so. The first permanent settlers arrived in Nova Scotia in 1632 and began lumbering on the LaHave River. The population by 1748 was 11,300; in 1767 it was 9,600; in 1786 it had risen to 30,000. By contrast, in 1748 New Brunswick had a population of 400; by 1767 the figure was only 1050; but by 1786 it was nearly twelve times greater -- 12,150 after the arrival of the Loyalists.<sup>6</sup>

New Brunswick was almost completely unsettled until 1784, ten years after British policy gave impetus to the masting trade. This trade became the first commercial activity of the new settlers. The forest wealth of New Brunswick built its towns and established a group of capitalists "who ran it until late in the nineteenth century and established the shipbuilding industry."<sup>7</sup> From the beginning of settlement New Brunswick was dependent on her forests.

Nova Scotia, too, produced masts and square timber for export, but because this province had been settled and cleared earlier, less timber was available. Much of the easily accessible forest had been cut down for local needs -- shelter, fuel and shipbuilding. The fish trade and shipbuilding enterprises were mutually supportive. Fishing provided food for local use and for trade. The fishing activity needed vessels. Fish, as well as many other commodities, needed barrels. The forests provided the wood for lumber, shipbuilding and barrel-making. Fish, lumber and barrels could then be traded for other items. Vessels were needed for

---

5 C.H. Jones, "The Lumber Industry in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia" (Master's thesis, University of Toronto, 1930), pp. 20, 23, 40.

6 J. Brian Bird, "Settlement Patterns In Maritime Canada, 1687-1786," *Geographical Review*, 45, no. 3 (July 1955), 394, 399, 403.

7 A.R.M. Lower, *Great Britain's Woodyard, British America and the Timber Trade, 1763-1867* (Montreal, 1973), p. 43.