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Historic glance on the forest sector in Québec

under the angle of the big movements
in weft of the industrial revolution



Window on the values maintained towards the public forest in Québec

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Introduction

According to the works of Kondratiev, The economy answers long and short cycles place of which the perceptible periodic convergence on a historic scale, give to associables events in "industrial impulses". If the exogènes impulses can produce drastic changes which propel literally the development of a region, the breathlessness of these last ones can return a less profitable industry to the plan of its activities become traditional, or its processes become old-fashioned. On the other hand, these same impulses proceed of a state of big disparities while new conditions allow suddenly to break the dikes who allowed it until then, to remain.

Sometimes, measures elaborated and implemented by the occupying base, allow to generate one against cycle, what allows to contain and sometimes even to knock down the process of devitalization which affects an industry. For their part, the endogenous measure rely on attributes belonging solely to a region, that these attributes are always present or that they are acquired in the course of the movements having marked the regional development in Québec. There is attributes biophysics but also, social attributes (domestic networks, circles of friends, professional networks) and cultural ones (organizational modes, fields of regional interests, identical symbols, consumption).

The regional development as the modality of action to support the regional development, consists to organize the economic development on the whole territory (Lipietz, on 2001). In France, by extension, we clarify the economic but also social and environmental roles of the aménagiste. Lipietz mentions for that purpose that the durability calls in bigger one endogénisation of the springs of the local development. The attributes appear under different shape and some of them are more easily measurable than the others (attributes biophysics, economic). We know the number of cubic meters of wood which it is possible to harvest, count it of employments that one cubic meter of wood generates, the distribution of the employments.. But that do we know social and cultural attributes? The social attributes take the shape of networks of exchanges. When an individual or a family leaves its region of membership for reasons of employment for example, he or she has to assume a break from the local networks. These networks have an effect of keeping back according to certain conditions of the other nature. The landed property for example, played a role major as agent of keeping back in Québec. The cultural attributes notably base on the knowledge, the knowledges (in making, in being), the customs (consumption, activities) shared socially. These attributes which we avoid too often landing because with difficulty measurable are not less contributory in the development of a regional industry no as the financial capital. These last ones for example, are very mobile compared with the first ones.

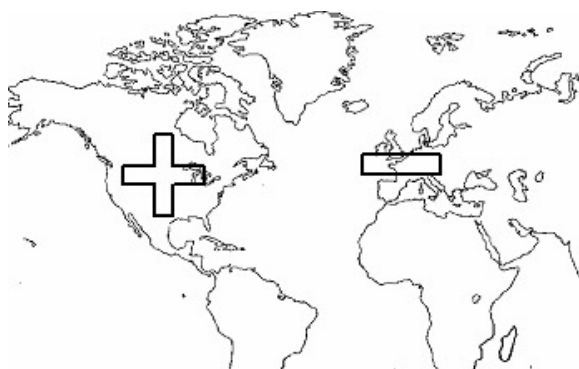
The historic portrait and its analysis

The passage in the industrial era

The recent industrial revolution and the agricultural revolution of the neolithic join as two big revolutions of the history of the man. It is to say that the last 10 000 years, the current period which began approximately 250 years ago mark the human fate so that the man of tomorrow will have only few things in common with the man of yesterday. With such a revolution, which intervenes over a short period of major changes, it takes there place to consider that the man will put several hundreds of years to adapt itself to his new post-industrial universe. Moreover, the current man did not yet succeed in adapting himself completely to the changes brought by the agricultural revolution of the neolithic.

The industrial revolution introduced by 1750 carried its first germs essentially in the North of Europe and in the United States. This revolution consists in a passage of the agricultural society to the society of production mechanized by not food possessions (Meignen, on 1996). We have to go back up to the XVIIIth century to see the first real ranging-poles of an industrial economy of type. This period notably corresponds to that of progress important for the agricultural plan. We observe the custom of the large-scale fertilizing first ones, the ascent in importance of the cereal crop and the specialization of the cultures there. In spite of a massive increase of the population in the North of Europe, the populations do not meet problems of food incapacity (Meignen, on 1996). During this period, the agriculture invested the international commercial markets in a significant way. All the technical progress allows to increase the productivity of grounds and later, to loosen profits a part of which will be of use to the improvement of instruments and the knowledge relative to the agricultural production as well as to the other domains of production.

Already during the XIIIth century, the agriculture had succeeded in becoming established such an industry from which benefited the international trade. We had then cultivated important surface of lands and so, increased significantly the potential of agricultural production. However, the passage in the industrial era could base on this only condition that was a significant increase of the agricultural potential. The mercantile politics implemented and maintained under the administration of Louis IV brought an unmistakable support for the emergence of sectors capable of supporting a commercial and industrial expansion. The natural resources which that very desired by North-America were the object of protectionist politics aiming at supporting an increase of the internal wealth. Gradually, we see appearing of new social classes (the bourgeoisie, the middle class and the working class). Finally, several new contributions of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries come in support to the emergence of the industrial era; the improvement of the ways of transportation, the knowledge of the maritime circuits and the success of about big companies (Meignen, on 1996) is the arrival of the fiat currency, the banks, the big colonial movements, the first forms of globalisation of the exchanges.



Historically, three major events come from a way hinge, to mark the passage in the industrial era; Adam Smith's statement in England and awareness which it arouses within the elitist class (« Wealth of nations ») on the economic liberalism, the proclamation of the independence of the United States and the French revolution. In 1873, after more

than one and a half century of development supported by the exploitation of natural resources resulting vast territories, Belgium, France, the United States and Prussia succeed in joining England in the plan of the industrial production (Meignen, on 1996).

The colonial period and mainly that introduced in New France at the beginning of the XVth century, strongly contributed to make some world industrial economy what it is today. During this period, the vast territory of North America was quickly surrounded by most European major powers. In France as in England, the imposition of a mercantile regime aimed at renforcer the metropolis. So, the big colonial campaigns had to allow the empires which supported them, to be equipped with vast ponds of resources to increase the commercial capacity of their respective metropolises. In this time, we recognized by colonies, when rights restricted to the plan of the commercial activities. For Louis XIV, New-France had to serve only for supplying raw materials and this way, no commercial activity of transformation was allowed. In England, we allowed 13 colonies to realize commercial activities of transformation. However, the exchanges necessarily had to compromise by the metropolis.

Naturally, the metropolis of each of the empires strongly benefited from new considerable contributions in first resources and so, was able to consolidate its industries. New-France succeeded in offering only a weak potential for the agricultural export of products and this last one was left there for a long time one mainly by subsistence. The fur however, strongly contributed to support the activity and the expansion of New-France in a point such as this expansion became the source of the first territorial conflicts with thirteen colonies. In New-England, colonies could count on a more important variety of economic activities. The economic diversification had been made possible by the more tolerant arrangements of the British regime and technically, by the colonies become 30 times as populous as the French colony in 1663.

The draft of furs (on 1671 - 1738)

The period said about the draft of furs marks quite debuts of the colonization of Québec by the European about 400 years ago. At first, they are the big streams; in occurrence the river St-Laurent and its tributaries which assured the access to the vast Québec land and determined territory the dominant modes of occupation. In this model, outposts often localized in mouths of rivers allowed to concentrate certain commercial activities and the transshipment of the goods. The business of furs, excellent commercial activity at the beginning of 1600s, formed itself with the implementation of such outposts. Later, some of these outposts saw their first vocation confirming with emergences of the other industries whereas the other outposts were downgraded such it was the case of Québec city for the benefit of Montreal and afterward, Montreal for the benefit of Toronto.... In spite of the relative displacement of the big poles of the time, the recent and historic experiences of these last ones were going to be able to contribute as endogenous factors, in the development of a new manufacturing with the small and average trade shipbuilding.

On the other hand, in this time and until XXth century the agriculture practised in Québec is one essentially of subsistence. From the beginning, the low lands of St-Laurent turned out fertile enough to support the rural communities in place and later, to generate surpluses of production. However, in territories more in the North and in border of the vast clayey plains, notably in border of the Canadian shield and Appalachians, the rural communities generally had much more difficulty remaining. In this context, the forestry development became not only an alternative allowing to occupy the long winter months but an essential additional activity to the preservation of communities on these hostile territories.

The landed property played a major role as agent of keeping back of communities. Formerly, The access to a property was a strong incentive to settle down in New-France. Still it was necessary to cultivate the ground, the *essoucher*, the take out the stones and often, with rudimentary tools. The ground became more interesting as we cultivated it and a valuable experience to be passed on in inheritance. Families so remained, of generation in generation, by becoming established and by living on the ancestral ground. Later, when the technological headways allowed to loosen surpluses of production with which the children of the farmers were able to study and to learn a profession. Because we try generally to work near there where we live, we can say that the landed property plays a role of keeping back of order cultural as it the fact on a social plan.

As regards the wood and the forest, in this time, the manners still limit themselves generally to energy purposes (heater, cooking). We cultivate the forest for an agricultural custom, often by setting fire to it.

The English conquest (on 1730 - 1830)

St-Laurent river as front door on North America, marked durably the economic starting up of Québec, Montreal, and Saguenay marked that of Chicoutimi. Today, we can say that these cities owe their existence largely to conditions become weak importance nowadays. With the improvement of the means of transportation, we succeeded in occupying territories situated more and more far from points of geographic break, there where the other conditions prevail. For strategic reasons of order, the sea route of St-Laurent lives in the first motives for the English side, for a conquest of New-France.

At the beginning of the XVIIIth century, New-France and New-England form two different territories in the plan of the geopolitical conditions relative to the commercial activities. In New-England, as it was allowed to transform the resources on a commercial base, what we could not make in New-France, we were very early able to implant industries there supporting a certain variety of industrial activities. This had the effect of stressing certain already perceptible social and cultural disparities since the draft of furs. Certain conditions are set up to reproduce a state of imbalance in the plans demographic, of resources, available technology and capital, such as there is there already one in strong sphere of influence between the old continent and North America. During the period of the napoléoniennes conquests, the exploitation of the resources in North America succeeds in maintaining certain level of activity, due to the blockade imposed in Europe.

Very early, the situation of disparity as for the protectionist politics governing the commercial activities created several conflicts between colonies and it, well before war for independence. Later, after this event and the deportation of about 100 000 loyal supporters in Québec, in Ontario and in the maritime, the new geopolitical situation of disparity lived; this time between a country become independent and the other one where the politics of formerly were only relieved. This new situation created another strong movement of immigration from Québec towards the United States, for the industrial employment. During this time, while the famine raged in Europe, we attracted the colonists in Canada by promising them a land and the possibility of practising a viable agriculture there.

The English conquest marks the transfer of the territory of New France in a very powerful empire and a demonstrator of the important needs in supply of quality wood. The rich luxuriant forests big surfaces of which we found then in Ontario, in Outaouais and in Saguenay are

invested quickly by the naval heavy industry and that of the shipbuilding in England, and literally skimmed.

The colonization (on 1838 - 1939)

Further to the recent creaming of the forests of noble broad-leaved trees and big pines, the shipbuilding loses of its vigour. The forest of Québec also became many less interesting to support this last one. The technical progress, the famine in Europe and the state of the forest industry in Québec are so many conditions which are set up for a new industrial takeoff with the pulp and the papers. Historically, we distinguish two working class; an agricultural class which intervened in the first phase of colonization of lands and a forest class come exploit the forest for the wood from 1838, in aid of the English market.

Due to an industrial tradition already well implanted in the United States, for cause notably of geopolitical conditions of past, our neighbours of the South already have an elaborated labour pool, which imposed a force of attraction on the population from Québec for the industrial employment. Although Canada applies henceforth so favorable politics as somewhere else as for the home trade and for the development of the activities of the manufacturing, the conditions of past contributed to the elaboration of a structure of the economic activity which is translated by a certain level of specialization of the regions of North America. Although she answers henceforth different forces, this structure evolves under the persevering influence of a culture differentiated geographically with the big movements of migration intervened in past.

The wave of immigration already in work at the beginning of this period, comes from advantage to stress the interregional sociocultural peculiarities. We already see a concentration of the industrial activities at our neighbours of the South at the same time as a colonization of the back country in Québec for a mode of occupation to agroforestry. However, the evolution of the geopolitical conditions allows henceforth the establishment of a trading class in region capable of supporting economic activities of sectors secondary and service industry.

The period fordiste (on 1920 - 1970)

The end of the second great war stands out at the beginning of a movement based on the keynesian ideology. It is about period going debuts of the years “ 1950 ” to the debuts of the years “ 1980 ”, where from the name “ glorious 30 ”; a period of strong industrial production in several domains but also a period of big projects with the road infrastructures and the building and a period marked by the institution of big social programs such as the security of the income. This new paradigm affects the Québec province in depth as it affects the rest of the country and all the countries the economy of which is based on a capitalist regime.

This period also evolves under the ideology of the organization fordiste; which divides the work into three big functions;

- the conception
- the qualified manufacture
- The discalified execution

The fordiste organization brings a division of labour not only locally but also on a regional and interregional base, according to labour pools. In France for example, we find regions :

- highly qualified
- In strong industrial tradition
- Of drift from the land or old industries in decline

These concerns relative to the spatial organization of the work under the angle of the regional development joined quickly those already in gestation in the “ New industrial nations ” (Lipietz, on 2001). The actions taken this way have for object to drive the mobile jobs towards the regions of drift from the land or industry in decline.

On the other hand, the technical progress allows to increase considerably the capacity of the means of transportation, both on the water and on the ground. Moreover, the volume of the inter-regional exchanges in resources and in transformed products increases especially since the technology allows it. Closer to us, the big public forest becomes henceforth accessible and exploitable on a commercial base.

With the end of the war 1939-45, begin a period of strong growth for several countries. Since the beginning of the years “ 1950 ”, the professionalization of the work in forest cuts with the traditional methods of the agroforestry. Formerly, the work in forest established an additional activity for the farmers because it took place in winter. Indeed, the work in forest was made by means of rudimentary tools and in a little productive way. In the first half of the last century, the weak productivity of the workers lives the lesser evil for the forest companies, these last ones assuming payroll charges relatively weak and being able to count on numerous enough teams.

However, from the beginning of the second half of the XXth century, the branch of industry in growth and the expansion of the public services come to drain the workers outside the traditional activities of the rural circles. The drift from the land and the institution of the social work after the war also come to affect the recruitment of the forest workers and the companies have then the other choice no than to turn to urban areas to recruit the missing workforce there. One find workers little prepared for the difficulties of the work in forest there and which present generally higher costs, notably in the plans of the return and the accidents. The mechanization becomes then an interesting exit for the heavy industry, at the same time as an alternative become accessible with the technical progress practically all the sectors of the economy.

Till the beginning of the years “ 1950 ”, the forestry development in Québec as somewhere else was essentially practised according to processes and traditional tools and main restrictive factor in Québec lived the availability of a hand of work in quantity and capable of composing with the rigours of the climate and the forested land. During only decade from 1950 till 1960, the mechanical saw literally comes to darken the axe and the sciotte as the tools of harvest. Also, by the middle of the years “ 1960 ”, the transport of wood was crossed by the horse in the mechanized means and the multifunctional made its entrance to the industry.

At the beginning of the years “ 1970 ”, while the technical means allowed now to mitigate the lack of forested manpower formerly lived as an important restrictive factor, the question of the forested property and its potential consequences becomes more and more worrisome for the population. This concerns but more particularly the mode of allocation of the rights of cutting.

In the second half of the 1970s, with the deposit of the results of the first program of forest inventory, the notion of forest possibility becomes quickly worrisome for the authorities, while we realize that it now became technically possible to harvest completely what the forest produces

annually and even more. In front of the eventuality of a consequent shortage of stock not only of an overexploitation of the resource but the recent damages caused by the tordeuse of the buds of the spruce, and in answer to the ascent of the concept of durable development, the government publishes a white book in 1985 entitled “ Build a forest for the future ”. Henceforth, the intervention in forest does not limit itself any more to the wooden harvest but also aims at supporting the production. The new forest policy is established on the principle of steady return. The adoption of the Law on forests in December, 1986 allows to concretize a new mode of allocation of the rights of cutting; let be the Contract of Supply and Forested Organization (Contrats d’Approvisionnement et d’Aménagement Forestier - CAAF). The new law notably foresees an adjustment of the rates of royalties according to the monetary value of wood harvested in the private forests.

Synthesis

Movement of the capital

The movement of the capital is indicative investments made in production units. This movement remains however bound (connected) to the geopolitical conditions which prevail on both sides. The history teaches us that a strong movement of the capital intervened of Europe towards the United States after the Proclamation of American independence. As they already had an industrial tradition, our neighbours of the South were able to benefit from it as of a real exogène natural impulse. They were so able to diversify their commercial activities of production and to increase their production capacity. Later, Canada became in his turn, earth (ground) of reception of investments from Europe and the United States.

Impact of the movement on the forest

The Québécois forest underwent a real déforestation, from the debuts of the colonization, with the clearing of lands for the agriculture. The déforestation of a territory corresponds to its permanent clearing with the aim of a change of vocation and custom (usage) others than forester. It is at first the clayey plains of the low lands of St-Laurent, then those of the back the country, that we so cultivated during colonial period. This would correspond also almost, in the portion of the Québécois territory of private tenure; that is 8 % of the whole Québécois territory.

The Québécois forest also underwent a creaming of its resources during the period of the English Conquest. The creaming of a forest consists in extracting him (her) its noblest resources, making him (her) lose some of its environmental and landscaped attributes.

The Québécois forest underwent a greater industrial pressure going of the beginning of the years “ on 1950 ” to the beginning of the years “ on 1970 ”. At this moment, it had become technically possible to exhaust the forested resource. This in created by new concerns at the practitioners and within the population generally, compared to the perpetuity of the resources. Since three in last four decades, these concerns become clearer constantly through the concept of durable development and elaborate on three plans; environmental, social and economic.

Movement of the populations

The movements of the populations historically based on conditions of disparities. During the big famine, a high number of European took part in the movement of colonization in New-France and in New-England, more in the second colony.

Later, ideological motives intervened in the deportation of a big number of supporters of loyal value. Later even, about 1 million Quebecers migrated at our neighbour's of the South for the industrial employment and in the hope of a better income.

Movement of the values

The question of the values returns us to that of the endogenous attributes of social and cultural order. As such, we hold that the support in values one of freedom or loyalty in the British crown,

a little later the employment in the manufacturing and the conditions which are connected with it, was able to feed a geopolitical system of cultural disparities. This last one was able to be introduced on one hand with politics which allow the transformation of the resources commercial purposes exclusively in New-England during colonial period, then stressed with the birth of a country in the political orientations become radically more tolerant.

The sphere of influence of the geopolitical orientations in business played a permanent role on the qualification of villages as poles of exchanges then on the qualification of regions in the spatial structuralization of the industrial activities. This sphere of influence had a sure incidence on the interregional movements of the populations. However, if the employment and the incomes were able to condition the movements of migration inter-regional, the other values had an effect of keeping back. Lipietz (2001) refer in the “ patrimonial viscosity of the space ” to explain that the incurred loss when we leave its region of membership is especially an authorized capital.

While a strong migratory movement of Québec towards the United States raged (about 1 000 000 of the persons in the XIXth century), regions founders of Québec reached certain level of industrial maturity notably with the maritime industry in Québec and in neighborhood. The clerical authorities thus introduced a movement to develop the resources of the Back country. Regions as Saguenay open then literally their doors to the colonization. These new regions, drier than the plain of St-Laurent, welcome populations of Europe and the other regions of Québec, appreciably with the same ideas and the same values as formerly.

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