

The Chronicle

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The Chronicle

COMPLETES ITS TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

THE PROGRESS OF CANADA REVIEWED FROM 1880 TO 1905.

In celebrating the close of the twenty-fifth year of THE CHRONICLE, it is natural to look back over the period passed through, just as one who is ascending a mountain turns around on reaching a "coign of vantage," some favourable point of view, to trace with interest and with pride the successive stages of his journey.

The period between January 1, 1881, and December 31, 1905, is one of the most momentous in the history of Canada. The historic materials it provides are sufficient for several volumes, which, in the hands of a competent narrator, would make a most instructive and fascinating work.

Few realize how much has been done towards what we may term THE MAKING OF CANADA since 1880. Few of our young men know through what perils the Dominion passed during that period. Few recognize with the gratitude, which is their due, the splendid services rendered to Canada by distinguished statesmen, by enterprising capitalists, and other leaders and promoters of national progress, amongst whom the conductors of the press must be given a prominent and highly honourable position.

Our pages are too few for such a narrative, but we propose to present a synopsis pointing out the more salient features of the course traversed by Canada since this journal was founded in January, 1881.

In 1880 all the British possessions on the North American continent were annexed to Canada. The Dominion was beginning to feel the throbbing, forcible impulses of the new life infused by Con-

ederation and its developments, the addition of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and British Columbia. Out of their entrance into Confederation grew the project to build a transcontinental railway, which, after some exciting vicissitudes, political and financial, culminated in the Canadian Pacific Railway Company being organized, a contract for building which was signed on October 21, 1880. The first sod of that line was turned on the 2nd of May, 1881.

A year afterwards, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Athabasca, now such familiar names, then as strange as those in the Eastern war reports, were created as provisional districts, the first step to their becoming autonomous provinces, which rank they attained this year.

In our natal year the Office of High Commissioner in Great Britain was created, which formed another tie that bound Canada to the Mother Land. As a further indication of development the Royal Society of Canada was founded by Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne. At the end of 1880 the population of Canada was 4,324,810.

In 1882 Regina was selected as the seat of government for the Northwest. The movements going on in these regions to establish law and order, more especially the survey work being prosecuted to enable charts to be drafted to provide the necessary details for scrip and deeds, aroused the suspicions and anger of the half-breeds and Indians who became apprehensive of their lands being confiscated. This natural fear was confirmed, in their judgment, by the long delay in issuing scrip or land certifi-