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REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

The past twelve months have displayed a quiet and generally uneventful progress of Montreal, but have not been quite so uneventful for Canada in general. The sudden death in Windsor Castle, just after having been sworn in as one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors, of the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson plunged the country in a grief which it had not experienced since the death of the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. The body of the dead statesman was brought to Canada by H. M. S. Blenheim, and buried in Halifax, his native town, with all the pomp of a state funeral. His family being left not well provided for, a testimonial was gotten up for them, which has reached respectable proportions. Hon. Mackenzie Bowell was called to the head of the government, and was knighted last May. Another political occurrence of the year was the negotiations carried on between the Dominion and Newfoundland with the view to rounding off Confederation by the inclusion of the ancient colony. A series of financial disasters in St. John's resulting in the suspension of the banks, and apparently in the serious embarrassment of the entire colony, the government included, was the cause of the negotiations, and it is to be regretted that these have, for the time being at least, been discontinued without a satisfactory conclusion being reached.

The Manitoba School question has also been the cause of some anxiety throughout the country, and the outcome of it is not yet determined. Acting according to the spirit of the highest court of the Empire, the Dominion Government has called upon Manitoba to modify the School Act of that province in a direction more favorable to the Roman Catholic minority. This Manitoba has declined to do, suggesting a commission of enquiry; and as the present government of the Dominion has supporters on both sides of the question who feel intensely, it is apparently placed in a very embarrassing position. The Colonial Conference, which met in Ottawa during the year, was one of the most significant and important congresses of the world, indicating the unity of the British Empire.

With regard to the record for Montreal proper the year has been one of slightly renewed activity in general business, although the effects of the crises in the United States have not yet entirely passed away. There was, notwithstanding this dullness, a steady progress in building, and while there were some severe fires, the city has not experienced that frequent and heavy loss which fell upon Toronto, and was ultimately traced to incendiarism.