

DOMINION DAY, 1905.

If ever any nation had reason for observing its natal day with pride, and with gratitude to Providence, that nation pre-eminently is Canada.

On July 1st, 1867, the Union of the various Provinces of Canada was publicly proclaimed, and Dominion Day was established. The Provinces were, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. The old titles, Upper and Lower Canada, were changed respectively to "Ontario" and "Quebec." Lord Monck was the first Governor General of the Dominion, and Sir John A. Macdonald the first Premier.

The system of government established by the British North America Act, the "Charter" of Canada, is a Federal Union, being the first of the kind in the British Empire. This Act provides for a general, or central government controlling matters essential to the general development, the permanency, the unity, the welfare of the whole Dominion. It also provides for each Province having the control and management of certain matters which more naturally and conveniently fall within the jurisdiction of a local government, while each government, central and provincial, is designed to be administered in accordance with the British system of parliamentary institutions.

The chief governmental authority is vested in the Sovereign. All Acts are passed and all Writs issued in His name. The King is represented by a Governor General who is appointed by the King in Council, but paid by Canada. His Excellency governs under the advice of a Council of Ministers, known as the "King's Privy Council for Canada," which is responsible to Parliament. The Dominion Parliament consists of, the King, the Senate, the House of Commons. Each Province has a Lieutenant Governor, and a Legislative Assembly with powers defined by the Confederation Act and by interpretations thereof by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The system, on the whole, has worked well, though it has developed certain evils, the prospect of which made Sir John A. Macdonald averse to the Federal principle, who, all his life, was inclined to pay little respect to Provincial Legislature and legislation.

The development of Canada since unity was established has been extraordinary, as a few items of statistics will show:

CANADA'S PROGRESS SINCE CONFEDERATION.			
	1904-5.	1867-8.	Increase
	\$	\$	\$
Imports.....	259,211,800	73,459,600	185,752,200
Exports.....	213,521,200	57,567,800	155,953,400
Total foreign trade.....	472,733,000	131,027,400	341,705,600
Bank deposits.....	465,120,800	33,653,600	431,467,200
Savings bks deposits	105,803,600	5,057,600	100,746,000
Total deposits	570,924,400	38,711,200	532,213,200

Discounts.....	543,102,500	52,299,000	487,803,500
Bank capital paid up	81,792,500	30,507,450	51,285,100
Dominion Revenue..	65,000,000	13,688,000	51,312,000
Notes in circulation.	58,136,000	9,350,600	48,785,400
For. trade, per head	\$ 85.00	\$36.00	\$49.00
Deposits, per head..	\$101.80	\$10.60	\$91.20
Discounts, per head	\$ 96.40	\$14.40	\$82.00
Note issues, per head	\$ 10.40	\$ 2.57	\$ 7.83

Confederation led to the movement which culminated in the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was involved in the agreement by which British Columbia entered Confederation, on July 20, 1871. Just one year previously, July 15, 1870, Manitoba was admitted into the Dominion after the acquisition of Rupert's Land, known as the Northwest Territories, by purchase for \$1,500,000 from the Hudson's Bay Company on May 11, 1870.

In 1873, Prince Edward Island came into confederation, and in 1880 all British possessions on the North American continent (not including Newfoundland unfortunately) were annexed to Canada by an Imperial Order in Council. In a month after this, October 1880, a contract was signed for construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the last spike of which was driven on 7th November, 1885. That was a dark year for Canada, owing to the rebellion in the Northwest, the history of which has yet to be written.

An enormous area in the Northwest was left undivided into provinces, the several divisions being styled "Districts," as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Athabaska, Assiniboia, Yukon, Mackenzie, Niagara, Franklin. The first two of these districts are now in process of being given the rank of "Province," with local powers of self-government under a Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly.

There is no previous record of a group of disjointed provinces independent of each other, but owing allegiance to one Crown having been amalgamated, or confederated, so as to form one autonomous, political unit. The Confederation of Canada has no historic parallel, nor has any nation shown as rapid expansion in trade and wealth in the same period as that in which this country has risen from comparative poverty and insignificance to be prominent amongst the nations for its accumulations of capital, for its shipping enterprises, for the length of its railways, for its production of grain and of gold, for the strength of its banks, for the splendid provision for popular education, for the universal contentment and comfort of the people, and the magnificent prospect it enjoys of developing into a populous and wealthy nation.

Well, then may Canadians observe Dominion Day with honour, well may they salute the flag which symbolizes our unity with the British Empire with loyal pride.