population, which in 1870, exclusive of Indians, was about twelve thousand, in twenty-five years had become over a quarter of a million. In 1890 a question relative to the public schools of this Province awakened the liveliest interest throughout the Dominion. The Legislature repealed the law which had given separate schools to the Roman Catholics. Great efforts were made, but without avail, by those in favor of separate schools to induce the Dominion Government to disallow the Act. Much dissatisfaction still prevailed, and the question remained unsettled.

Death of Sir John A. Macdonald and Alexander Mackenzie.—The two great statesmen of the Dominion passed away within a year of each other. Sir John A. Macdonald, who for nearly half a century had been a leading factor in shaping the history of Canada, died in June 1891. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie died in the following April, a great and good man, though not ambitious of honor.

Premiers.—Sir John Abbot now became Prime Minister, but through failing health he was soon compelled to resign the position. In the autumn of 1892 he was succeeded by Sir John Thompson, a Nova Scotian.

The Bering Sea Arbitration, 1893.—At this time the Government of the United States was making a singular claim to the ownership of the seals in Bering Sea, and seized Canadian vessels engaged in their capture. The claim was disputed by Great Britain, and the question was finally referred to arbitration. The court decided that the claim was not valid, and that the United States must reimburse the Canadian sealers for the property seized.

Death of Sir John Thompson.—In the autumn of 1894 Sir John Thompson visited England. While at Windsor Castle, to which he had been invited by the Queen, he was seized with sudden illness, and immediately expired. Every mark of honor was shown to the deceased Premier. The Queen, with her own hand, laid memorial wreaths upon his coffin, and the British Government sent a warship to bear his remains to Halifax, where the burial took place with all the solemn pomp of a state funeral.