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Dominion Day.

THIS is the twenty-ninth anniversary of the union of the four Provinces, which on 1st July, 1867, were proclaimed to be, and formally constituted, The Dominion of Canada. The manifest destiny of this Dominion is demonstrated by its historic success, its magnificent achievements, its pride in its past, and confidence in its future. The welding process is not complete; the sense of national unity is not as deep and intense as we should like it to be. But Canada is a unit, and Canadians are learning more and more the obligations of patriotism, and conscious of their being one people, with common aims, interests, aspirations and duties. As our native population increases, the sense of nationality will grow, they will learn to speak of Canada as those from the Old World do of the great nations from which they spring. The idea of a united Canada dates from 1690, when it was propounded as desirable for the protection of British colonists. In 1754 the scheme was urged by Franklin. In 1775 Mr. William Smith proposed a plan of Union, and was sent out of America for his pains. He is regarded as "the grandfather of Confederation." In 1814 Chief Justice Sewell, under Mr. Smith's influence, in conjunction with other prominent men, submitted a scheme for Union to the home government. Year after year scheme after scheme was formulated, the subject being discussed by the most distinguished public men in Canada and in Great Britain. Confederation became a very live question in 1849 by "The British North American League," being founded by a body of young Canadians, whose leader and inspirer was the late Sir John A. Macdonald. The Union proposal was advocated in 1857 by Mr. J. C. Taché in the *Courrier du Canada*. Then came speeches by such able leaders of public thought as Messrs.

Alex. T. Galt, D'Arcy McGee, Alexander Morris, Geo. Cartier, Leonard Tilley, John Ross, Charles Tupper, Governor General Sir Edmund Head, and others in both Upper and Lower Canada. As the discussion went on, it was found that the people generally favored Union of the Canadian Provinces, the minority against it being small, and confined to a very narrow section. In 1866, delegates from Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, having legislative authority, met in London, and framed an Act of Union which passed the Imperial Parliament in March, 1867; this was formally proclaimed at Windsor Castle on the 22nd May, and then throughout the now federated Provinces on the 1st July. Since then Prince Edward Island and British Columbia have entered Confederation, and the North West Provinces and Territories have been acquired. Since 1867 not a sign of any anti-confederation movement has been made, although, naturally enough, no little friction has arisen in working the new machinery, especially in regard to the subsidies granted to the several Provinces from the Federal Treasury. Canada has been highly favored in having for each term a Governor General of eminent character and statesman-like talents, notably the Earl of Dufferin, and the distinguished nobleman who now so worthily represents the Queen in this Dominion, whose universal popularity has been won by qualities and services which will make the name of "Aberdeen" ever revered in Canada. Having in our issue of March 15th given the most complete and interesting table of statistics yet issued, showing the progress of Canada under Confederation, we need not enter into details now. This is our Country's birthday; we rejoice in it; we take pride in the record it recalls; and we look from the vantage ground of this day with unfaltering confidence as to the coming years when The Dominion of Canada will hold its head high among the nations, while still remaining a section of the British Empire.

A Prize Essay on Life Assurance.

THE essay on the theme, "Why a man should insure his life," which won the prize offered by the Mutual Life, contains some excellent passages. The subject has been so thoroughly discussed, we do not expect anything new to be said upon it, but only some recognized truths to be presented attractively. The writer