

DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA Since Confederation.

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BY

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In order to judge the extent to which the work of development has been carried on, it is necessary that the condition of what is under consideration, of that which has been developed, must be known prior to the commencement of the work of development. A story is told that after certain roads in Scotland had been constructed by General Wade, a local poet wrote:

"To pay due honour to General Wade,

You should have seen these roads—before they were made!"

(It is evident that a Scotchman can make a bull as well as an Irishman.)

So of Canada prior to Confederation, to pay due honour to the statesmen by whose efforts Canada was brought into unity as a Dominion, and to appreciate the development that has since taken place, it is essential that the conditions existing before Confederation should be known, I propose, therefore, to give a brief sketch of these conditions which will afford us a basis for the comparisons to be made with those now existing.

After the session of Canada to Great Britain in 1763, the genius of the Mother Country, as a colonizer, began to be shown, and a movement commenced, like yeast when introduced into a mass of flour, to bring the whole country, over which the supremacy of Great Britain had been established, into closer union. The first step was the annexation of Cape Breton to Nova Scotia, in 1763; then, in 1769, Prince Edward Island was made a separate Province, with a local Government under which the first Assembly met in July 1773. Next year the "Quebec Act" was passed, giving the French Canadians entire religious and civil freedom with the protection of their own laws, customs and language. The Province of Quebec was organized, and a Legislative Council appointed. In 1783, the population of Canada had risen from 65,000 at the time of the cession, to 113,012. At this time the population was enlarged by some 40,000 loyalists migrating to Canada from the United States. In the years 1785 to 1788 the Province of New Brunswick and of Western Canada, now Ontario, were organized, and English law established. In 1791 Quebec was divided into two Provinces, known as Upper and Lower Canada, each with a separate Government, and in 1792 the Assembly of each Province met, one at Quebec and the other at Niagara. Troublous times followed, owing to attempts of Americans to conquer Canada, which went on until 1814. In the next 20 years the Lachine Canal was built; banks were opened in Montreal and Quebec; a Quebec built steamer crossed the Atlantic, and the first railway in Canada from Laprairie to St. Johns was built, which was opened in 1836.

In 1841 Upper and Lower Canada was united as the Province of Canada, to be governed by an Assembly representing what are now the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In the next twenty years, 1841 to 1861, the Grand Trunk Railway, the St. Lawrence Canals, the Northern Railway, the Great Western, the Atlantic Steamship service, the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, were constructed, and Canada was honoured by a visit from the Prince of Wales. (now our gracious King). In 1861, the population of Upper Canada, or Ontario, was, 1,396,091; of Lower Canada, or Quebec, 1,111,566; of New Brunswick 252,947;

of Nova Scotia 330,857 of Prince Edward Island 60,857. The agitation was now general and active all over Canada in favour of some form of Confederation, which resulted in the passage on February 10th, 1867, of the British North America Act. By this Act the Provinces known as Upper and Lower Canada, that is, Ontario and Quebec, with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, were united, as the Dominion of Canada. The first Parliament met on the 6th of November, 1867, the late Sir John A. Macdonald being premier. Prince Edward Island refused to join the Union until 1873.

This brief sketch informs us that before Confederation, the material development of Canada was making rapid strides; that the country consisted of five Provinces, three having an independent existence, and two others being only united by a slight political bond, and wholly independent of the other three.

The consolidation so set forth in the British North America Act (30 Vic., cap. 3, 1867), is a reflex of that of Great Britain. The Governor answers to and represents the Sovereign, he has no party associations, but governs through Ministers of the Crown, who may be styled a Committee selected by the House of Commons. The Constitution of Canada is "broad based upon the people's will" broader based indeed than in any other land, for, practically, every British subject who is sane and free, has the right to vote for members of Parliament, with the exception of certain public officials. The Dominion Government has power to regulate:

Trade and Commerce,	Borrowing on public credit,
Indirect taxation,	Census and Statistics,
Public debt and property,	Lighthouse and Coast Service,
Militia and Defence,	vice,
Navigation and Shipping,	Quarantine,
Fisheries,	Weights and Measures,
Currency and Banking,	Naturalization,
Bankruptcy and Insolvency	Penitentiaries and Criminal
Marriage and Divorce,	Law.
The Postal Service,	

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

The provinces have each a Lieutenant-Governor, and a Legislative Assembly with power to regulate:

Education,	Appointment of Magistrates,
Common Goals,	Asylums, Charities, etc.,
Shop and Tavern Licenses,	Municipal Institutions,
Marriage and Ceremonies,	Local Works,
Administration of Justice in	Property and Civil Rights,
Provincial Courts,	

Canada is provided with a complete system of self-government representing all classes, all interests, and the whole machinery of government is so adjusted as to work harmoniously for the public welfare.

GEOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT.

A few months after Confederation was consummated its boundaries were extended by the acquisition of the North West Territories. This was effected by an Act of the Imperial Parliament known as "The Rupert's Land Act." In 1870, a large slice was cut off from the newly acquired area and created the Province of Manitoba. Next year British Columbia entered Confederation, and in two more years, in 1873, Prince Edward Island repented and came into the fold of Confederation.

In 1860 all the British possessions on the North American continent were declared to be part of the Dominion of Canada by an Imperial Order in Council. That Imperial Order closes the record of the geographical development of our country.

The entire area of Canada, prior to Confederation, was 299,700 square miles, of which 495,800 was land and 3,900 water, since Confederation the area has developed into a total area of 3,456,383 square miles, of which 3,315,647 are