

CANADA.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT AND RECORD.

1887.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

1. In the year 1840 the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada were united under the name of the Province of Canada; called respectively, Canada West and Canada East. Twenty-seven years later, viz., in 1867, the British North America Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament, providing for the consolidation of the whole of British North America into one political confederation, under the name of the Dominion of Canada. Union and Confederation.

2. The Dominion, as at first constituted, was composed of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, (originally Upper and Lower Canada), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. By the Rupert's Land Act, passed by the Imperial Parliament, 31st July, 1868, provision was made for the acquisition by Canada of the whole of the vast territory formerly under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company. Sir George Cartier and Hon. Wm. McDougall went to England to arrange the terms of the transfer with the Company, which were finally settled on 29th March, 1869. On the 19th November, 1869, the deed of surrender from the Company to Her Majesty was signed, by which it was provided that in consideration of the surrender the Company should receive the sum of £300,000 from the Dominion of Canada, that it should retain all its trading posts and privileges, as well as certain quantities of land around the trading posts, amounting altogether to 45,160 acres, and that at any time during fifty years from the date of the surrender it should be entitled to claim one- Addition of the North-West Territories.