

1853. The number of members in the Legislative Assembly was increased from 84 to 130, being sixty-five from each Province.
- January 27. Main line of the Great Western Railway opened for traffic.
1854. Abolition of Seigniorial Tenure in Lower Canada, and settlement of the Clergy Reserves question.
- June 5. Reciprocity treaty with the United States, signed at Washington. It provided for mutual rights of fishing in certain Canadian and American waters, for the free interchange of the products of the sea, the soil, the forest and the mine; it allowed Americans the use of the St. Lawrence River and Canadian canals on the same terms as British subjects, and gave to Canadians the right to navigate Lake Michigan. This treaty was to last ten years.
1856. The Legislative Council was made an elective chamber.
1858. Adoption of the decimal system of currency. Selection by the Queen of the city of Ottawa as the capital of the Dominion and permanent seat of Government.
1860. August 25. Opening of the Victoria Bridge by the Prince of Wales. This bridge crosses the St. Lawrence at Montreal, on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway. It is the largest iron tubular bridge in the world, is sixty feet high in the centre, and nearly two miles in length.
- September 1. Laying of the corner stone of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa by the Prince of Wales. These buildings, together with the Departmental Buildings, have been erected at a total cost up to 30th June, 1885, of \$4,360,873.
1861. Population of Upper Canada, 1,396,091; of Lower Canada, 1,111,566; of New Brunswick, 252,047; of Nova Scotia, 330,857; of Prince Edward Island, 80,857; of Vancouver's Island, exclusive of Indians, 3,024.
1866. March 17. Termination of the Reciprocity Treaty in consequence of notice given by the United States.
- June 1. Invasion of Canada by Fenians. Battle of Ridgeway, and retreat of the volunteers.
- June 3. Withdrawal of the Fenians into the United States.
- June 8. First meeting of Parliament in the new buildings at Ottawa. At this meeting the final resolutions necessary to effect the Confederation of the Provinces were passed.
1867. February 10. The British North America Act passed by the Imperial Legislature.
- July 1. Union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under the name of the Dominion of Canada. The names of Upper and Lower Canada were changed to Ontario and Quebec respectively.
- Lord Monck, was the first Governor General of the Dominion, and the first Parliament met on the 6th November, Sir John A. Macdonald being Premier.
1868. April 9. Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, M.P., murdered at Ottawa.
- July 31. The Rupert's Land Act passed by the Imperial Government providing for the acquisition by the Dominion of the North-West Territories.
1869. June 22. Bill passed providing for the Government of the North-West Territories.