

7. In 1774 what is known as the "Quebec Act" was passed by the British Parliament. It extended the bounds of the Province from Labrador to the Mississippi, and from the Ohio to the water-shed of Hudson Bay. It established the right of the French to the observance of the Roman Catholic religion without civil disability, and confirmed the tithes to the clergy. It restored the French civil code and established the English administration of law in criminal cases. This act continued to be the rule of government of the province for seventeen years.

8. Soon after the passing of the Quebec Act the "War of Independence" began, one of the first steps taken by the secessionists being to capture Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain. Other forts along the gateway followed, and on the 12th November, 1775, Montreal, then having a population of 10,000, succumbed; but the tide turned when, flushed with their first success, the Americans essayed the capture of Quebec, two daring attempts resulting in disastrous failure.

9. By the terms of the treaty of peace signed at Paris, September 3rd, 1783, Canada lost the region lying between the Mississippi and the Ohio, and was divided from its southern neighbour by the great lakes, the St. Lawrence, the 49th parallel of north latitude and the highlands dividing the waters falling into the Atlantic from those emptying themselves into the St. Lawrence and St. Croix rivers.

10. In 1791 the Constitutional Act was passed by the British Parliament. It divided Canada, then having a population of 161,311, into two provinces, known as Canada East and Canada West, or Upper Canada and Lower Canada. Each province received a separate legislature, consisting of a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown, a Legislative Assembly elected by the people, and a Governor appointed by the Crown and responsible only to it.

11. In 1812-14 Canada was called upon to undergo a severe ordeal caused by the United States declaring war against Great Britain. The United States selected Canada as the first point of attack, but though Canada had less than 6,000 troops to defend 1,500 miles of frontier and a population under 300,000 to match itself against the eight millions of the United States, the Canadians, rallying as one man to the loyal support of their Government, so bore themselves throughout the two years' struggle which ensued, that, when it ended, the advantage lay clearly upon their side, and the victories of Queenston Heights and Chateauguay are to-day pointed to with the same patriotic pride as the Englishman takes in Waterloo or the Frenchman in Austerlitz.

12. When the war was over, the people of Canada turned their attention to domestic matters and began their agitation for Responsible Government, which they never relaxed until in 1840 the Home Government, acting upon the suggestions contained in the report of Lord Durham on the state of the Canadas, determined upon the union of the two provinces and the acknowledgement, in the new Constitution of 1841, of the principle of Responsible Government.