

1774. The "Quebec Act" passed. This Act gave the French Canadians the free exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, the enjoyment of their civil rights, and the protection of their own civil laws and customs. It annexed large territories to the Province of Quebec and provided for the appointment by the Crown of a Legislative Council, and for the administration of the criminal law as in use in England. North-west coast of British Columbia explored by Vancouver and Cook.
1775. Outbreak of the American Revolution and invasion of Canada by the Americans; every place of importance rapidly fell into their hands, with the exception of Quebec, in an attack upon which General Montgomery was defeated and killed on 31st December.
1776. Reinforcements arrived from England, and the Americans were finally driven out of Canada.
1777. Order of Jesuits abolished by Papal decree and consequent escheat of their estates in Canada to the Crown.
1778. June 3. First issue of the *Montreal Gazette*. This paper is still published.
1783. September 3. Signing of the Treaty of Versailles and definition of the boundary line between Canada and the United States, viz., the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence, the 45th parallel of north latitude, the highlands dividing the waters falling into the Atlantic from those emptying themselves into the St. Lawrence and the Ste. Croix River.
1784. Population of Canada, 113,012. (United Empire Loyalists in Upper Canada not included.) Fredericton, N.B., founded. Cape Breton separated from Nova Scotia politically.
British population of Nova Scotia, 32,000 (about 11,000 Acadians not included).
1784. About this time began the migration into Canada and Nova Scotia of the United Empire Loyalists, as they were called—that is, of those settlers in the American States who had remained faithful to the British cause. This migration lasted for several years, and though it is not possible to arrive at any exact figures, it is probable that the number altogether was not less than 40,000. The Loyalists were well treated by the British Government, and large grants of lands were made to them in various parts of the country. The banks of the St. Lawrence and the shores of Lake Ontario, in particular, were settled by about 10,000 persons, on lands allotted to them by the Government.
1785. May 18. Date of charter of St. John, N. B., the oldest incorporated town in Canada. Sydney, C.B., founded by Lieutenant-Governor Desbarres.
August 16. New Brunswick made a separate province; population, 11,457. Re-introduction of the right of *habeas corpus*.
1787. First Colonial See established in the British Empire in connection with the Church of England, in Nova Scotia.
1788. Western Canada (now Ontario) divided into five districts, and English law introduced. King's College (N.S.) founded.
1791. Division of the Province of Quebec into two provinces, viz., Upper and Lower Canada. Each province to have a Lieutenant-Governor, and a Legislature composed of a House of Assembly and a Legislative Council. The members of the council were to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for life; those of the Assembly to be elected by the people for four years. Population of the two provinces, 161,311.
1792. September 17. First meeting of the Parliament of Upper Canada at Newark (Niagara), under Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. The House of Assembly consisted of sixteen members.
December 17. Opening of the Legislature of Lower Canada, at Quebec, by Gen. Clarke. The House of Assembly consisted of fifty members.
1793. Abolition of slavery in Upper Canada. Upper and Lower Canada separated from the Church of England See of Nova Scotia, and founded into a separate See. Toronto founded as York. Rocky Mountains crossed by Mackenzie. Public Accounts first published.
1796. The seat of Government of Upper Canada removed from Niagara to York (Toronto).
1798. The name of St. John's Island changed to that of Prince Edward Island, in honour of the Duke of Kent, the change to take effect in 1800. Population, 4,500.
1799. Education Act passed in Upper Canada.
1800. Jesuits' Estates taken possession of by the Government. King's College (N.B.) granted a royal charter.
1805. January 1. Founding of the *Quebec Mercury*.
1806. November 22. Issue of *Le Canadien*, the first newspaper printed entirely in French. Population of Upper Canada, 70,718, and of Lower Canada, 250,000.
1807. Grammar schools founded in Upper Canada.
1809. First steamer on St. Lawrence River.
1811. Judges excluded from Parliament.