

1896. November 24. Behring Sea Commission met at Victoria, B.C. Mr. Justice King on behalf of Great Britain, and Mr. Justice Putnam on behalf of the United States, arbitrators.
1897. January 21. Sir Henry Strong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, appointed a member of the Privy Council of England.
- February 2. Anglo-Venezuelan Treaty of Arbitration signed at Washington by Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador, and Senor José Andrade, Venezuelan Minister.
- February 11. Fire in the Western Block, Parliamentary Buildings, Ottawa.
- June 22. Special celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee throughout the British Empire.
- July 7. The Colonial Premiers appointed members of the Privy Council of England, viz., Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada; George H. Reed, Premier of New South Wales; Sir George Turner, Premier of Victoria; Sir Hugh M. Nelson, Premier of Queensland; Charles C. Kingston, Premier of South Australia; Sir John Forrest, Premier of Western Australia; Richard J. Seddon, Premier of New Zealand; Sir E. N. Coventry Braddon, Premier of Tasmania; Sir William Whiteway, Premier of Newfoundland, and Sir John Gordon Spriggs, Premier of Cape Colony.
- July 30. British Government gives notice of denunciation of the Treaties of Commerce with Belgium and Germany, in accordance with the unanimous wish of the self-governing Colonies of the Empire.
- August 8. Canadian Government decides to appoint an administrator of the Yukon region, and to provide the machinery for the administration of justice.
- August 18. Second meeting in Canada of the British Association, in Toronto.
- October 6. Great Britain refused to agree to the request of the United States to allow Russia and Japan to take part in the Conference at Washington relative to the Behring Sea Seal question.

The principal physical features of Canada are the Rocky Mountains and the Laurentian range, the plains of the North-west Territories, the great lakes and Hudson Bay and the Bay of Fundy, and the Mackenzie River and St. Lawrence River basins.

The great inland lakes, five in number, form, with their connecting rivers, a complete system of navigation from the head of Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of 2,384 miles. They cover an area of about 100,000 square miles.

Other lakes of large size are Great Bear, 11,200 square miles; Great Slave, 10,100 square miles; Winnipeg, 9,400 square miles; and Athabasca, 4,400 square miles.

The principal mountains are the Rocky Mountains in the west, extending from the Arctic Ocean to the United States; they contain the highest points in the Dominion, among the chief being Mount Hooker, 16,760 feet; Mount Brown, 16,000 feet; and Mount Murchison, 15,700 feet.

The principal rivers are the St. Lawrence (with its tributaries, the Ottawa, the St. Maurice, the Richelieu and the Saguenay), the St. John, the Restigouche and the Miramichi rivers, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean; the Mackenzie, Coppermine and Great Fish rivers emptying into the Arctic Ocean; the Saskatchewan and Red, the Nelson, Churchill and Albany rivers flowing into the Hudson Bay; the Fraser and Columbia emptying into the Pacific Ocean.