

1897. August 16. Yukon Judicial District established by Governor General's proclamation.
- 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.
- November 11. Secretary of State (U.S.) Sherman to Sir W. Laurier, conferred respecting Joint Commission to settle questions in dispute between Canada and the United States.
- November 18. Sir Oliver Mowat appointed Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. Hon. David Mills sworn in Minister of Justice.
- December 8. Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of England reported in favour of the Provinces of the Dominion having the right to create Queen's Counsel.
- December 22. Arbitrators awarded Canadian Sealers \$464,000.
- December 25. The Pope published an encyclical on the Manitoba School Question advising acceptance by the Catholics of Manitoba of concessions embodied in Manitoba School Settlement.
1898. January 14. Mr. Justice Jetté appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.
- March 11. Colonial Premiers of Australasia in Conference pass Resolution that if Great Britain and Canada contribute two-thirds of the cost of the Pacific Cable, Australasia will contribute one-third.
- April 5. Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, brought down budget. Chief features are (1) completion of the Preferential British Tariff of 1897, providing that beginning on 1st August, 1898, all imports from the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, and from such other British colonies or possessions of Great Britain as admit Canadian goods on as favourable terms as Canada admits their goods, are to be admitted at customs rates of 5 per cent of the specified rates, provided that this preference does not extend (*a*) to wines, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines, and articles containing alcohol; (*b*) to tobacco, cigars and cigarettes—and further provided that in the case of manufactures the reduced rate applies only to *bonâ fide* manufactures of the countries participating in the reduced rate, and that a substantial portion of the labour of those countries has entered into the production of the imported articles.
- April 12. Death of Cardinal Taschereau.
- May 17. Franchise Bill passed the Dominion House of Commons.
- May 26. Judicial Committee of Privy Council of England decided that while exclusive power to make fisheries regulations is vested in the Dominion, the issue of licenses and the collection of revenue belong to the provinces, except in the cases of Manitoba and the North-west Territories.
- June 3. Australian Federal Constitution carried by Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria, but rejected by New South Wales.
- June 7. M. C. Cameron appointed Lieutenant-Governor of North-west Territories.
- June 13. Death of Sir Adolphe Chapleau. By Chap. 6, Acts of Parliament of Canada, the District of Yukon was constituted and declared to be a separate territory under the name of the Yukon Territory. The first Commissioner appointed under the Act was William Ogilvie, appointed by Order in Council dated 4th July, 1898.
- August 23. Joint High Commission met at Quebec; Lord Herschell was appointed chairman. Rt. Hon. Sir W. Laurier, Honourables Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Louis Davies, Mr. John Charlton, M.P., and Sir James S. Winter (Newfoundland), formed the British and Canadian part of the Commission. The Honourables Charles W. Fairbanks, George Grey, John W. Foster, Nelson Dingley, jr., John A. Kasson and T. Jefferson Coolidge represented the United States. The Joint High Commission sat in Quebec till 2nd September, when it adjourned to 20th September. After continued sessions from that date to 10th October, it again adjourned to meet in Washington on 1st November. Another adjournment took place on 23rd December. Commission resumed on 5th January, 1899, and adjourned 20th February to meet 2nd August, 1899. Mr. Gray became Peace Commissioner at Paris and Mr. Faulkner was appointed. Mr. Dingley died in Washington on the 13th January, 1899, and was replaced by Hon. L. E. Payne. Lord Herschell died in Washington 1st March, 1899.
- September 11. Great fire in New Westminster.
- September 21. Monument to Champlain unveiled in Quebec city.
- September 26. Death of M. C. Cameron, Lieutenant-Governor of North-west Territories.
- September 29. Plebiscite on question of legislative prohibition of liquor traffic.