

by the President of the United States on the 16th March, 1855, at which date it came into operation. First screw steamer from Liverpool to the St. Lawrence River. Sugar refining established in Montreal. Oil wells first opened in Canada. First sod turned of railway from Halifax to Truro.

1855. Ottawa incorporated as a city. Opening of the Niagara Suspension Bridge. Money order system established in the province of Canada. Registration of letters in post offices established.
1856. The Legislative Council of the province of Canada became an elective chamber. Allan steamship line commenced regular fortnightly steam service between Canada and Great Britain. Submarine Cable laid between Cape Breton Island and Newfoundland. First meeting of Legislature of Vancouver Island. Railway between Montreal and Toronto opened.
1857. March 12. Desjardins Canal railway accident, 60 lives lost. St. Hyacinthe (P.Q.), incorporated as a city. City of Three Rivers incorporated. Steamer "Montreal" lost near Quebec, 253 lives lost.
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 made known to the Legislature on 16th March. Atlantic cable laid between England and Nova Scotia. Representative Institutions granted to mainland of British Columbia. Railway from Halifax to Truro opened. 100th Regiment recruited in Canada.
- April. Gold found in British Columbia.
- September. Gold found in Tangier River, Nova Scotia.
1859. New Westminster founded by Colonel Moody. Allan line of steamers made weekly trips. Money order system established in Nova Scotia. *Nor' Wester* newspaper appeared in Fort Garry, the first newspaper in the Red River region.
1860. The beginnings of Winnipeg made their appearance.
- August 8. The Prince of Wales arrived in Quebec.
- August 25. Opening of the Victoria Bridge by the Prince of Wales.
- September 1. Laying of the corner stone of the Dominion Buildings at Ottawa by the Prince of Wales. These buildings, together with the Departmental buildings, have been erected at a total cost of about \$5,000,000 including the cost of repairs rendered necessary by the fire that occurred on the 11th February, 1897.
- Art Association founded in Montreal. Oil wells of Petrolia in operation.
1861. Population of Upper Canada, 1,396,091; Lower Canada, 1,111,566; of New Brunswick, 252,047; of Nova Scotia, 330,857; of Prince Edward Island, 80,857; of Vancouver Island, exclusive of Indians, 3,420.
- Land Commission for Prince Edward Island appointed. Hon. J. H. Gray for the Crown, Hon. Joseph Howe for the tenants, and Hon. J. W. Ritchie for the proprietors. Award made August, 1861.
- First triennial session of the Provincial Synod Church of England held in Montreal.
1861. Street Railways operated in Montreal and Toronto. Bank of British Columbia received a royal charter.
- Trent Affair.—Capt. Wilkes boarded (8th November) British Mail Packet Trent and carried off Messrs. Mason and Slidell, Confederate Commissioners. 18th December; British Government demanded surrender of Mason and Slidell. Demand acceded to by United States Government and war averted.
1862. Conference at Charlottetown *re* Confederation. Manitoulin Island Treaty with Indians arranged by Hon. William Macdougall. Victoria, B.C., incorporated as a city.
1863. Royal Assent given to Separate School Bill passed by the Canadian Legislature.
1864. Quebec Conference held. Resolutions passed in favour of Confederation of British North American provinces. Raid from St. Albans into Canada. School system of Nova Scotia enlarged and established.
1866. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick accepted Confederation with Canada.
- Great fire in Quebec, 2,129 houses burned in St. Roch's and St. Sauveur's suburbs.
- May 17. Termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, in consequence of notice given by the United States. It lasted 11 years and two months.
- June 1. Invasion of Canada by Fenians. Battle of Ridgeway.
- June 8. Flight of Fenians across the border from Pigeon Hill. First meeting of the Legislature of the Province of Canada in the new buildings at Ottawa. At this meeting the final resolutions necessary on the part of the province of Canada to effect the confederation of the provinces were passed.
- November 17. Union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia proclaimed.
1867. February 10. The British North American Act passed by the Imperial Parliament.
- July 1. Union of the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under the name of the Dominion of Canada, proclaimed. The names of Upper and Lower Canada were changed to Ontario and Quebec, respectively. Dominion day established.
- 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.