

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.
1860. 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, 80,837; 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 public 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. 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. Conference at Charlottetown re Confederation. Quebec Conference held Oct. 10–29. 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.
1865. July 30. Death of Sir E. P. Taché, one of the "Fathers of Confederation."
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 Lime Ridge.
- 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.
- December 10. Death of Hon. Edward Whalen, one of the "Fathers of Confederation."
1868. April 7. Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, M.P., one of the "Fathers of Confederation," murdered at Ottawa.
- July 31. The Rupert's Land Act passed by the Imperial Government providing for the acquisition by the Dominion of the North-west Territories.
- April 1. Uniform rate of 3 cents for letters throughout the Dominion adopted.
- Post Office Savings Banks established in the Dominion.
- November 8. Death of J. M. Johnson, one of the "Fathers of Confederation."
1869. February 2. Lowd Lisgar became Governor General.