

1898. April 5. Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, brought down budget. Chief feature was 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 25 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 resulted in a vote for prohibition, 278,380; against, 264,693. About 44 per cent of the number of voters on the lists polled their votes.
- October 4. Mr. A. E. Forget appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the N.W.T.
- November 4. Haultain-Ross Government (N.W.T.) sustained at the polls.
- November 12. Earl of Minto sworn in as Governor General of Canada, being the eighth since Confederation.
- December 13. Announced that Lord Strathcona gives a million dollar endowment for Royal Victoria College for Women, in connection with McGill University.
- December 25. Two cent postage rate went into operation between Canada, Great Britain and several of the British Colonies.
1899. January 1. Letter postage in Canada reduced to two cents.
- January 20. Doukhobors arrived in Canada and settled in the North-West. In round numbers 7,500 of them arrived during the year.
- February 2. Paris International Exhibition Commission for Canada appointed. Hon. J. I. Tarte, Chief Commissioner.
- February 18. General elections in New Brunswick. Government successful.
- May 23. First celebration of 'Empire Day' in Canada.
- May 24. Celebration of Queen's 80th birthday.
- May 27. Mr. P. A. McIntyre gazetted Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.
- June 5. Sir Wilfrid Laurier submitted to the Commons of Canada the latest proposal of the Anglo-American Commission relative to the Alaska-Canada boundary question.
- June 16. Serious explosion of fire damp at Caledonia Mines, Nova Scotia, resulted in about 30 deaths.