

from abroad. This had been increased to 17½ per cent during the Liberal régime, which had coincided, in the main, with a period of great financial depression. The new tariff was thus a decided step in the direction of protection, and was held to be justified by its effect on the trade of the country.

The year 1880 was marked by the transfer to Canada by Imperial Order in Council of all British possessions on the North American continent not previously specifically ceded. In the same year the Canadian Academy of Arts was established and in the following year the Royal Society of Canada, both of which have been influential in promoting the cultural life of the Dominion.

Reference has been made to certain troubles incident to the organization of a government for the province of Manitoba in 1869-70. After a lapse of fifteen years the same elements in the population which had then resisted the political change again broke out into open rebellion (March, 1885) in the Prince Albert district of the territory of Saskatchewan. Militia regiments were despatched from eastern provinces under the command of General Sir F. Middleton, and order was completely restored but not without some loss of life. The same year witnessed the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway, the last spike having been driven by Sir Donald A. Smith (later Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal) at a point called Craigellachie on November 7. Canada now possessed within her territory a line from ocean to ocean, though the first through train from Montreal to Vancouver did not pass over the line till the month of June following.

General elections were held in the years 1882, 1887 and 1891, and on each occasion the Government of the day was sustained. On the last occasion, Sir John Macdonald, with his accustomed energy, threw himself into the campaign at a very inclement season of the year, but the strain was too great for his years and, when parliament met on April 29, he was in visibly impaired health. On June 6, 1891, he died, aged 76. By common consent he had done much to shape the political history of Canada. His gifts as leader and statesman were acknowledged not less freely by opponents than by his supporters. He was succeeded as premier by Sir John Abbot, who had only held the position for a year and a half when the state of his health compelled him to retire. Sir John Thompson, who succeeded him, reconstructed the Government but died while in England on public business in 1894.

Three Conservative premiers had now died in the space of three years and a half. Sir Mackenzie Bowell was then placed at the head of an administration in which certain elements of disunion soon began to manifest themselves, as a result of which Sir Mackenzie, on April 27, 1896, yielded the reins of Government of Sir Charles Tupper, who had for some years been filling the office of High Commissioner for Canada in London. A question relating to the public schools of Manitoba had now become acute. Upon the establishment of the province a system of "separate schools" was organized under which the control of Catholic schools was left in the hands of the Catholic section of a general school board. The cancelling of this arrangement in 1890 led to protests and a demand for the "remedial legislation" provided for by the British North America Act in cases in which educational rights enjoyed by any section of the population before Confederation were abridged or disturbed by subsequent legislation. The Privy Council, to whom the case had finally been appealed, decided that such remedial legislation was called for, and the Dominion Government was consequently under obligation to introduce it. The question was much discussed before and during the general election of June, 1896, but to what extent it influenced the result is doubtful. The Government sustained a decisive defeat (June 23, 1896).