

1896. April 27. Resignation of Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell as Premier. Governor General sent for Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., who formed a ministry.
- June 23. General elections. The Liberals won.
- June 25. Death of Sir Leonard Tilley, one of the "Fathers of Confederation."
- July 6. Order in Council enlarging the boundaries of the province of Quebec to the shores of Hudson Bay, and adding 118,450 square miles of territory to the province.
- July 11. Hon. W. Laurier accepted position as Premier.
- July 13. Liberal Ministry sworn in.
- October 13. Supreme Court of Canada gave judgment on fisheries reference case.
- November 9. Pacific Cable conference reassembled at London, England.
- November 12. Agreement signed to appoint arbitration tribunal to determine boundaries between Venezuela and Great Britain.
- November 24. Behring Sea Commission met at Victoria, B.C.; Mr. Justice King on behalf of Great Britain, and Mr. Justice Putnam on behalf of the United States, arbitrators.
- January 11. Sir Henry Strong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, appointed a member of the Privy Council of England.
- February 2. Anglo-Venezuelan Treaty of Arbitration signed at Washington by Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador, and Senor José Andrade, Venezuelan Minister.
1897. February 11. Fire in the Western Block, Parliamentary Buildings, Ottawa.
- June 22. Special celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee throughout the British Empire.
- July 7. The Colonial Premiers appointed members of the Privy Council of England, viz., Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada; George H. Reed, Premier of New South Wales; Sir George Turner, Premier of Victoria; Sir Hugh M. Nelson, Premier of Queensland; Charles C. Kingston, Premier of South Australia; Sir John Forrest, Premier of Western Australia; Richard J. Seddon, Premier of New Zealand; Sir E. N. Coventry Braddon, Premier of Tasmania; Sir William Whiteway, Premier of Newfoundland, and Sir John Gordon Spriggs, Premier of Cape Colony.
- July 30. British Government gave notice of denunciation of the Treaties of Commerce with Belgium and Germany, in accordance with the unanimous wish of the self-governing Colonies of the Empire.
- 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, proposed conference 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. Behring Sea 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 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.