Dominion Day in Canada

Some Facts About The British North America Act

It brought about the union of the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into one Dominion, forming them into four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

It vested in the Queen and her heirs the executive government and authority over Canada.

It established the Privy Council of Canada "to aid and advise in the Government."

It vested in the Queen and her heirs the Command-in-Chief of the Land and Naval Militia and of all the Naval and Military Forces of and in Canada.

It established the seat of the Government at Ottawa.

It provided that Parliament must sit at least once every year.

It provided that senators must be:

"Thirty years of age:

"British subjects by birth or naturalization.

"Legal owners of lands worth $4,000 above all mortgages and charges in the province for which they are chosen.

Owners of real and personal property worth $4,000 above all debts.

Residents of the province for which they are elected, and in the case of Quebec residents of the electoral divisions for which they are appointed.

A senator is appointed for life, although he may resign. His seat becomes vacant if he is absent for two consecutive sessions or makes an oath declaring his allegiance to any Foreign Power, or is adjudged bankrupt, attainted for treason or convicted for felony or ceases to be qualified by property ownership or residence.

The Governor-General under the Great Seal of Canada appoints the Speaker of the Senate, but the Speaker of the House of Commons is appointed by the members of that House.

The House of Commons may sit for five years without appeal to the people but no longer.

The number of the House of Commons is determined by the census, and Quebec always has 65 members and each of the other provinces has a number of members which bears the same proportion to the number of its population as the number 65 bears to the population of Quebec. Readjustment of numbers cannot take place until the expiry of a sitting parliament.

The Governor-General has power to assent to all bills passed by both of the Houses in the name of the Soverign or he can withold that asent or reserve the bill for the signification of the Sovereign's pleasure.

The Lieutenant-governors of the provinces are appointed by the Governor-General and hold office during his pleasure. Their salaries are paid by Parliament.

The salary of the Governor-General is fixed at ten thousand pounds a year (about $50,000) payable out of the Consolidated Revenue of Canada.

Special provision is made in the B. N. A. Act for the admission of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and the Northwest territories.

Under this Act Canada pledged itself to build the Intercolonial Rail-Act.

Canada is Proud Of Civil Service

Prior to 1882, appointments to the Civil Service of Canada were made directly by the Government of the day. In that year, a Board of Civil Service Examiners was appointed to examine candidates and issue certificates of qualification to those successful at examinations. Appointments, however, were still made by the Government.

The Royal Commission of 1907, appointed to inquire into the Civil Service Act and its operation reported in favour of the creation of a Civil Service Act and its operation reported in favour of the creation of a Civil Service Commission. In 1908 this body was appointed, consisting of two members appointed by the Governor in Council and holding office during good behaviour. This Commission made appointments to the Inside Service (at Ottawa), some after open competition and other after qualifying tests. Qualifying examinations were also held for the Outside Service (service apart from Ottawa) and lists established from which the Department selected names.

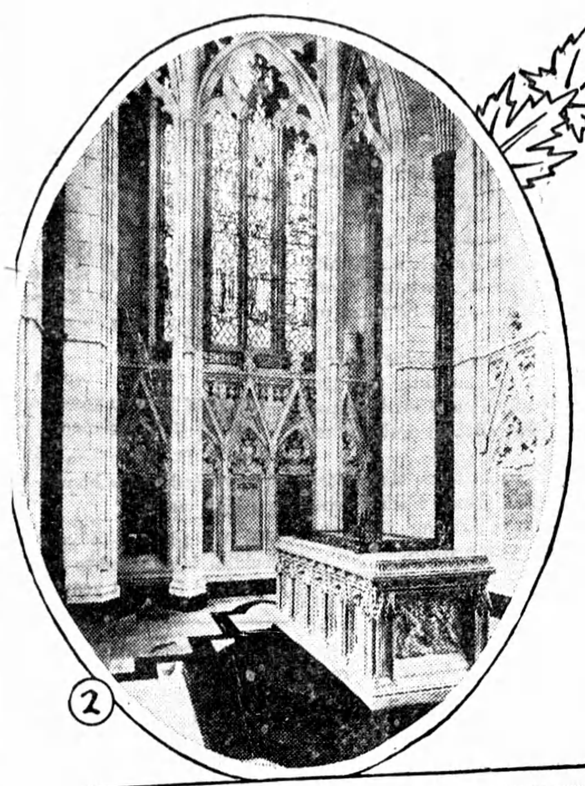
In 1918 a third member of the Civil Service Commission was appointed, and by the Civil Service Act of that year the principle of appointment after open examination was applied to the Outside as well as the Inside Service. The Act also provided for the organization by the Commission of the various Government Departments for the establishing of new rates of compensation, and for the principle of promotion by merit wherever consistent with the best interests of the Service. Provision was also made for preference in the matter of appointment to the service to be given to qualified applicants who had served in the Great War.

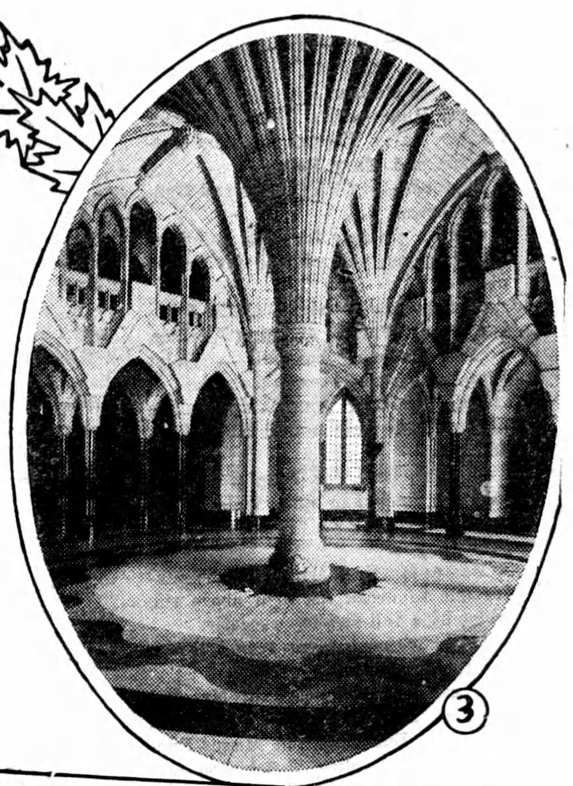
From April 1924, a monthly return of personnel and salaries has been made by each Department to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics according to a plan that ensures comparability between Departments and continuity in point of time. The institution of this system was preceded by an investigation back to 1912.

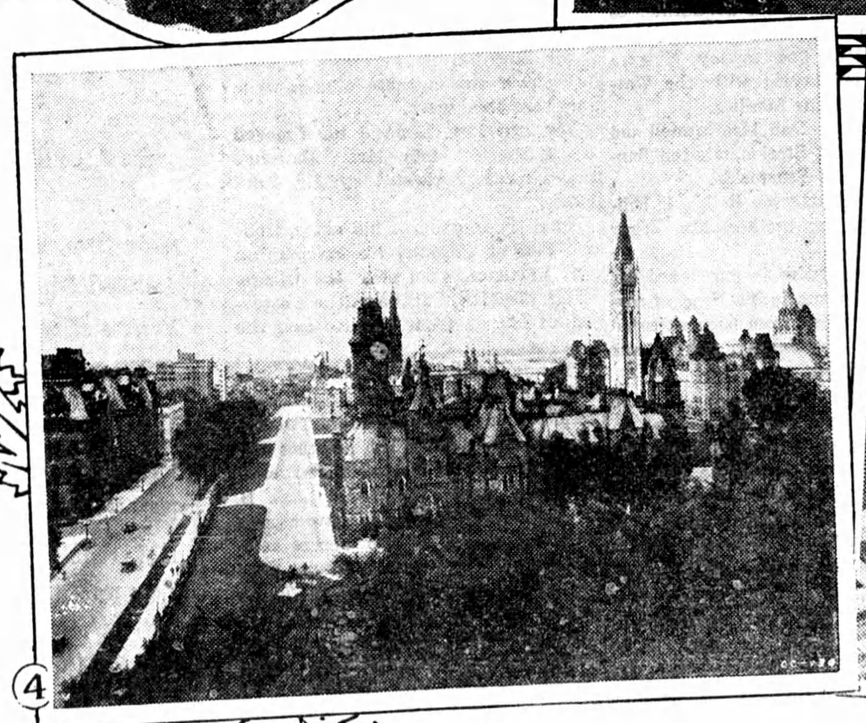
During the war years the number of employees increased very rapidly, as a result of the enlargement of the functions of government and the imposition of new taxes, necessitating additional officials as collectors. Such new services as the Department of Pensions and National Health and the Soldier Settlement Board were also created. The maximum was reached in January, 1920, when 47,133 persons were employed, a number which has since decreased to 43,525, in January, 1930. It may be added that, out of 44,175 in March, 1930, 1,161 in the Income Tax Branch and 2,145 in the Department of Pensions and National Health, or 3,306 in all, were engaged in services of outstanding importance which had no existence before the war. Further, an additional 11,739 persons were, in March 1930, employed in the Post Office Department, performing services of an industrial rather than of a governmental type, and receiving their salaries out of the payments of the public for services immediately rendered, rather than out of taxation. This postal service alone accounted for $2,727,756 of the $7,443,404 paid in salaries in March, 1930, or 36.65 per cent of the total.

Sir John A. Ma[illegible] Canada's First Prime Minister

Where The Laws Of The Land Are Devised







In the Entrance Hall of the House of Parliament (upper left) there is a triumphal first statement of the gothic theme that re-asserts itself in every corridor and chamber of the splendid buildings as one eloquent figure haunts a fugue.

In the centre is the peace tower, fittingly framed between the vaulting lines of a shadowy arch. High up in the tower is the Memorial Chamber (upper right) in which the Altar of Remembrance stands with its great book of holy names. There is inscribed a record of all those who valiantly gave their lives for Canada in the Great War.

Below are two aerial views of Ottawa. From them it may be seen how well the city was planned. The Government buildings stand on the very summit of the hill. Beyond them a precipitous cliff falls away to the river.

The Present Governor-General

John Buchan, Writer and Historian, Was Born in Perth, Scotland, August, 1875

He came of an old Border family firmly established in the esteem of the countryside, and comfortably affluent. Advantages which, while useful were to count little beside the capacity of the man himself.

At Glasgow University, and Brasenose College, Oxford, he was not long in proving his quality. With an insatible appetite for history — especially its pageantry and color — he carried off the Stanhope Historical Prize and the Newdigate Prize for English verse. Also at Oxford, he was elected president of the Union—that great debating society that has given to Britain so many of its men of affairs.

Lord Tweedsmuir, the present Governor-General of the Dominion.

The Boer War had already been raging a year when, at the age of 26, John Buchan was called to the English Bar. Followed a two-year sojourn in Africa, during the early months of which he went up the Zambesi River, and shot big game. He became a convert to Cecil Rhodes' dream of a United British Empire and it was not long before he was called to more serious work.

Lord Milner was South African High Commissioner at that time. Volume Two of the "Milner Papers" records the commissioner gathering around him a group of able young men, drawn from the Civil Service and elsewhere in England, who came to be popularly known as his "Kindergarten".

One of these young men was John Buchan, who became Lord Milner's secretary. Another who has since made his mark in British life was Philip Kerr, now Marquess of Lothian.

To both fell a share in the task of healing the war-stricken Transvaal and meeting the implacable hatred of the Boers with justice, tact and a genuine desire for friendship. As to the success of this policy, South African offers ample evidence.

During the next few years he divided his time between law on journalism and then in 1907 came a partnership with Thomas Nelson and Sons. During all thees years, John Buchanan was writing. From the time of his first novel, 'Sir Quixote," which appeared in 1896 while he was still at Oxford, has has been a constant procession of romances, histories and biographies, interspersed with an occasional sally into the realm of verse and "Light" mystery fiction.

The war brought him one of his greatest opportunities for service. The London Times sent him to the front as a correspondent in the spring of 1915 and he was present at the second battle of Ypres. A year later he joined Sir Douglas Haig's staff as intelligence officer, was present at the battle of the Somme, and was recalled in January 1917 to take the important post of Director of Information at the War Office. It was this war service, joined to his fights as narrator and historian which let him write John Buchan's History of the Great War. (1921-2).

Assuming his duties as Governor-General of the Dominion at Rideau Hall, in 1935, Lord Tweedsmuir brought with him an ideal helpmate, Lady Tweedsmuir, herself, an authoress.

Assured of Support

If the Dominion Government decides to pursue a more vigorous policy in regard to preservation and extension of the forests, it is assured of a strong support, for interest in this subject was never greater than at the present time.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister