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I pray Almighty God that the words I write in this house may be pure and honest—that they be dictated by no personal spite, unworthy motive or unjust greed for gain; that they may tell the truth as far as I know it—and tend to promote love and peace—amongst men.
 —William Makepeace Thackeray.

Thursday, June 9, 1927.

THE FIRST DOMINION PARLIAMENT

On July 1, (Dominion Day), Lord Monck who had been Governor General of British North America since November 2, 1861, announced his appointment as Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada. By the authority of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, on that day he conferred the Order of Knighthood on John A. Macdonald and the honor of Companionship of the Bath on S. L. Tilley, Charles Tupper, Georges Etienne Cartier, A. T. Galt, Wm. McDougall, and W. P. Howland. These honors were conferred in recognition of the part the recipients had played in bringing about the Union of Canada and the Maritime Provinces.

On the following day Lord Monck was sworn in as Governor General and Sir John A. Macdonald at his request formed the Coalition Government of both Conservatives and Liberals. The first House of Commons consisted of 181 members—82 from Ontario, 65 from Quebec, 19 from Nova Scotia and 15 from New Brunswick. Simultaneously the Senate came into being. It consisted of 72 members, appointed for life, 24 from Ontario, 24 from Quebec, 12 from Nova Scotia and 12 from New Brunswick.

The first Dominion Parliament held in all, five sessions. During the first Wm. McDougall moved a series of resolutions praying that Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories be added to the Dominion. These resolutions bore fruit and on June 23, 1870 an order of the Queen-in-Council transferred the territory designated to Canada. A bill was also passed empowering the Government to raise money for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway.

While the Dominion Government was in session the Legislature of Nova Scotia prayed the Queen for a repeal of the Act of Union, so far as related to Nova Scotia, but, due largely to the acute manipulation of Charles Tupper, the repeal movement came to naught and the Imperial Government would not consent to the province withdrawing from Confederation. Early in March, 1868, the first Canadian three cent letter stamp was issued, and on April 1, post office Savings Banks were first opened.

During the second session the Government was faced with a momentous question. The half-breeds of the Red River, under Louis Riel, were made to bring about a peaceful settlement, but during the third session of Parliament an Expeditionary force under Col. Wolsley had to be sent to quell the uprising. Wolsley won a bloodless victory, the rebels fleeing at his approach.

The fourth session saw the conclusion of the Treaty of Washington a treaty that dealt with such important questions as the San Juan boundary, the fisheries and the navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the Canadian Canals. While the House was in session the Imperial Parliament passed the "B. N. A. Act, 1871," granting the Parliament the right to create new provinces. On July 20, 1871, British Columbia was admitted to the Dominion.

After the close of the fifth session, Parliament dissolved. The Coalition principle was abandoned and the ensuing election from which the Conservatives emerged victorious, took place along strictly party lines.

GEORGE BROWN

George Brown was in many ways the most striking figure that played a part in the political life of Upper Canada. He was a Scot, having been born in Alloa, near Edinburgh, on November 29, 1818. In 1833 he emigrated with his father, Peter Brown, to the United States, where they founded, in 1842, the British Chronicle in New York. On a trip to Toronto in the interests of this paper, George Brown, became deeply impressed with Upper Canada, and in 1843 he and his father came to Toronto where they founded the Banner, which in the following year gave place to the Globe with George Brown as editor and guiding spirit. By the vigor of his style and his uncompromising attitude on public questions he became a force in the land and the Globe won and long held the first place in Canadian journalism; indeed it dominated the thought and moulded the views of the majority of the counties of Upper Canada.

In 1851, George Brown was elected to the Legislative Assembly his platform being; control over the executive, religious equality, a national system of education free from sectarian bias, an amended jury law, improved assessment and cheap postage. He more than any other man, achieved a full measure of responsible Government for the Canadas. He at once became a power in Parliament. In 1858 he caused the defeat of the Macdonald-Cartier Government and was called on to form a ministry. But the Brown-Dorion administration was immediately defeated on a vote of want of confidence and Brown once more found himself in opposition.

Much has been written to prove that this or that man was the prime force in bringing about Confederation. George Brown played an essential part in the movement. In 1858, he suggested to Luther Holton a comprehensive union as the remedy for the unstable position of government in the Canadas. "A federal union, it appears to me," he wrote, "cannot be entertained for Canada alone, but must include all British America." At a convention in Toronto, in 1859, he advocated the adoption of the federal principle. In 1864, he was chairman of a committee on constitutional changes and reported on the application of the federative system to Upper and Lower Canada alone, or to the whole of British North America. John A. Macdonald was one of three on the committee who dissented.

The Tache-Macdonald Government now went down to defeat. Brown could have formed a government but he had produced a "deadlock" and instead of taking over the reins of government he arranged for the formation of a coalition, by means of which Confederation was brought about. He retired from the Coalition Government in 1866, when he saw that Confederation was certain of achievement.

In 1867, in the first Dominion election, he was defeated and henceforward showed no desire to re-enter Parliament. But in the columns of the Globe he continued to mould and fashion Liberal opinion. In 1875 he was offered the Lieutenant-Governorship of Ontario but the editorship of the Globe was not compatible with such an office and he would not surrender the Globe for a kingship. He was twice offered knighthood but declined.

On March 25, 1880, in his sixty-second year and in the full vigor of his manhood he was shot by Gordon Bennett, a discharged employee of the Globe. He might have recovered from the wound, but, contrary to the advice of his physicians he continued to do his work in his chamber, and, largely as a result he died, on May 9.

THE STORY OF THE POSTMAN

Few Canadians realize the dramatic story behind the man in blue who drops the mail at the door or who drives through the storm on His Majesty's business in rural routes. It is the story of a great but friendly monopoly with none of the sinister implications usually associated with that word. Somehow everyone has a friendly feeling towards the postal service, but few are aware of the first-rate brains and energy that have been required to build up the great, speedy postal service of Canada.

At the time of Confederation there were 3,400 post offices in the Dominion and mails were carried on some 2,278 miles of railway. To-day there are nearly 13,000 post offices in Canada, and 37,000 miles of railway used for the transmission of mails. On July 1, 1867, there were six post offices between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains whereas there are now more than 3,000 in the same territory.

Just prior to Confederation the pre-paid letter rate in Canadian Provinces was five cents per half-ounce, and letters delivered by a carrier cost two cents in addition to the postage. The rate on letters from Canada to Great Britain was 12½ cents per half-ounce, and letters for Red River (Manitoba) cost ten cents per half-ounce. All this should be remembered when it is considered that a full ounce can be sent anywhere within Canada or the United States for two cents ad within the British Empire to-day for three cents.

Postal revenues in 1867 totalled a million dollars, while last year Canadians paid \$37,000,000 for postal services. Fifteen thousand packages were carried in the mails in the year of Confederation, while last year forty million parcels went through the mails totalling nearly 55,000,000 pounds. Canadians who lived through the Confederation days spent on an average 27 cents each for mail every year, while to-day the average is \$4 per head each year.

Rural mail delivery was established in 1908 and to-day there are more than 3,700 delivery routes and delivery is given through 200,000 boxes on these routes to over a million people. The postal service has expanded to meet the complexities of modern life until to-day one can insure one's parcels with convenience, send fresh eggs or live chicks through the mails, or keep a savings bank account with the nearest postmaster for a banker.

This efficiency has not been achieved without the aid of some of the best brains of the country's public life. There have been twenty-five Postmasters-General since Confederation, and the list includes many distinguished names such as Campbell, Langevin, O'Connor, Huntingdon, Caron, Mulock, Aylesworth, Lemieux, Beland, Blondin and Murphy.

Not the least of the good offices performed by the Post Office Department has been the extensive education of the public in the right use of postal facilities.

The Post Office Department is always anticipating means of improving and extending the system to the end that the best possible service, consistent with reasonable economy may be given to the Canadian public. This year of Jubilee finds the Department taking advantage of the very latest developments in transportation by air, and before the year is ended an air mail route will be inaugurated from the Gulf of St. Lawrence that will some day reach to the Pacific.

**Suggested Sunday Program
 For Jubilee Celebration**

From Coast To Coast Canadians Are Invited To Assemble For Thanksgiving Services

A suggested program for the holding of a National Thanksgiving on Sunday, July 3 at 2.30 p.m. has been circulated by the National Committee for the celebration of the Jubilee of Confederation, to mayors, reeves and the heads of local celebration committees throughout the Dominion of Canada. The program in question has been prepared at the suggestion of Premier King.

The circular states that on the afternoon in question from the coasts of Atlantic to the coasts of the Pacific the people of the Dominion of Canada are invited to assemble and participate in an expression of Thanksgiving which shall be nation-wide. Selections are set forth in the circular with a view to providing an order of proceedings which may be followed in all parts of the Dominion, and which will permit of participation in the National Thanksgiving by the people as a whole. It will be for the provincial and local committees to make the arrangements necessary to the assembling of the people in their respective communities, and to the ensuring of due precision in the time and order of the proceedings.

At the Capital, where the Federal celebration is being held, their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Viscountess Willingdon, the Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet, the local members of parliament and of the Ontario Legislature, the Mayor and members of the Council of the city of Ottawa, and other public personages together with the heads of religious denominations will be asked to take a central position immediately in front of the entrance to the Houses of Parliament. Announcement of the several selections will be made by his Excellency the Governor-General, and participation in the singing or recital thereof will be aided by such facilities as the local celebration committee may provide.

At the capitals of the several provinces, it is proposed that gatherings similar in character take place immediately in front of their respective Legislative Buildings, the Lieutenant Governors to be responsible for the order of proceedings.

In Canada the municipal system lies at the very basis of its parliamentary institutions. It is therefore proposed that in cities, towns and villages other than capitals, the National thanksgiving proceedings should be accorded a relationship to the Municipality similar to that given to it at the several capitals. No settlement or hamlet in the Dominion it is felt, is too small or too remote to participate officially in the proposed National Thanksgiving.

While the circular sets forth an order of proceedings, which it is hoped may be followed in all parts of the Dominion, it is recognized that additions thereto, or subtractions therefrom may be regarded advisable by the local committee. It is also recognized that the substitution of numbers other than those provided, may be necessary, especially where translations are necessary. It is therefore understood that alterations of this kind may be made wherever local committees so decide.

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