

a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the general government. The confederation grew out of the natural desire of the people of the disconnected provinces to unite for their mutual benefit and to secure a better form of self-government. To the urgent demand for the privilege of confederating, the British Parliament responded in 1867 by passing an act known as "The British North American Act," providing for the voluntary union of the various provinces in North America under the name of the "Dominion of Canada," ceding to the Dominion all the vast unsettled area of British America formerly dominated by the Hudson's Bay Company, with power to create new provinces and admit them into the union when sufficiently populated, similar in principle to the custom of admitting new States into the American Union.

The act went into operation on the 1st of July, 1867, the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick uniting with Upper and Lower Canada, or, as thereafter known, Ontario and Quebec. This union of the inland and maritime provinces gave to Canada an importance she had never before possessed. The United States had now on her northern boundary, from ocean to ocean, a nearly independent nation of considerable strength and wealth, and one which would naturally develop and expand at a rapid rate. In 1870 the Province of Manitoba was admitted to the confederation, having been carved out of that portion of the territory lying on both sides of the Red River of the North, embracing the city of Winnipeg and the old Red River settlements of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1871 the large and prosperous Province of British Columbia was added, consisting of all that region lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, including the numerous large islands fringing the coast, and extending from the United States to and beyond the southern limit of Alaska. Prince Edward Island joined the confederation in 1872, but Newfoundland, including a portion of Labrador, has not yet united, although provision was made for its doing so in the original act of Parliament.

The population of the Dominion approximates 5,000,000 Caucasians, of whom about one-fourth are of direct French descent, the remainder being chiefly of English, Scotch and Irish extraction, or immigrants from those countries. Germany is well represented, and every nation in Europe has contributed its quota to swell the population. Of Indians there is an estimated population of 85,000. About one-third of these live in the older provinces and have been long since gathered into settlements under the care of officers of the Indian Department, in some cases having industrial schools and other organizations to aid them in their progress toward a higher civilization. Missions under the care of different denominations have been established among these as well as tribes not yet gathered on reserves, and their schools are disseminating knowledge among the younger generation. Canada has always had good fortune in her dealings with the native tribes, and has seldom experienced the bloody Indian wars so common south of the boundary. The recent trouble with the French-Canadian

half-breeds in the Saskatchewan country, in which a number of Indians participated, grew out of land difficulties of long standing. The natives have never proven turbulent, and the policy of the government is calculated to encourage them in peaceful relations towards the whites. In the United States Indians are supported in idleness by the government, and being subject to official mismanagement, to a failure of food and clothing supply through want of sufficient appropriations by Congress, carelessness by officials or peculation by agents, as well as interference with their guaranteed privileges by irresponsible people, they frequently are goaded into hostilities. These fruitful causes of trouble are absent in Canada, the policy of the government being to require the natives to take care of themselves. The result is that in the older settlements the natives are employed in various industries, especially in fishing on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and as settlements progress they are gradually converted from idleness to habits of industry.

The variations of the Canadian climate are less than in many countries of much smaller extent. But throughout nearly its whole area Canada is characterized by greater heat in summer and a much lower temperature in winter than in corresponding European latitudes. Its general character is level, though it includes the Rocky Mountains, with the picturesque and diversified region lying between them and the Pacific, and the Laurentian Range, continued northward to the Arctic Ocean.

Besides the great lakes which find their outlet through the St. Lawrence to the sea, there are thousands of lakes throughout Canada, many of them of large dimensions. Foremost among those is Lake Winnipeg. The two great branches of the Saskatchewan take their rise in the Rocky Mountains, and, after uniting their streams, flow into the lake, which also receives the Assiniboine, the Red River and other smaller rivers. The St. Lawrence and the great lakes, of which it is the outlet, are estimated to contain 12,000 cubic miles of water; and the Niagara Falls, which constitute the main feature in the descent from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, are on a scale commensurate with this vast fresh water system of rivers and lakes. The River Niagara issues from Lake Erie in a broad, tranquil stream, varying in breadth from one to three miles, and continuing through a course of about fifteen miles, with a fall of little more than a foot per mile. But on reaching the rapids the descent is suddenly increased to about eighty feet in less than a mile before the waters reach the grand leap of about 165 feet perpendicular over the great falls. The Horseshoe Fall, on the Canadian side, is upwards of a third of a mile broad. Between this and the American Fall Goat Island intervenes; and then another volume of water, about 600 feet wide, plunges with like abruptness into the abyss below. The great breadth as compared with the height of the falls tends in some degree to mislead the eye in the first impression produced, and it is only by slow degrees that the mind is brought to an adequate estimate of the grandeur of the scene. The river passes over the