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Dominion Day, July 1, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

This was the anniversary of the day on which the Canadian provinces were united, forming the present Dominion of Canada, in 1867.



The arrangements for the day included an informal reception by the Canadian commissioners at Canada House during the morning, and a parade in the afternoon to Festival Hall, where appropriate exercises were held. The parade was made up largely of the visiting British military contingent. The band of the Grenadier Guards marched at the head, followed by a company of the Royal Horse Artillery and detachments from the First Life Guards, Fifth Royal Irish Lancers, Eleventh Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), the Forty-second Highlanders (the famous Black Watch Regiment), the Connaught Rangers, the King's Royal Rifles, Captain Rawson's Infantry, and a company of pipers.



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The procession, making its way through the crowded grounds, marched into Transportation Building and stopped before the black-draped model of the ill-fated British battle ship Victoria, while the band played the "Dead March in Saul." As the music ended a British seaman lowered the English jack, the ensign, and Admiral Tryon's flag, which draped the model. The line proceeded then to Festival Hall, where a large audience was waiting. The hall was in gala dress, the Red Cross of St. George, the Dominion coat of arms, and the colors of the United States forming the background of a scene to which the showy military uniforms added the final touch.

The program was begun with the singing of "God save the Queen," after which the Hon. George R. R. Cockburn, M. P., of Toronto, made an address of welcome. Mayor Harrison's response on the part of the city was followed by the address of Senator Joseph Tass, of Quebec, who spoke in French for the benefit of the French Canadians. Executive-Commissioner J. S. Larke then sketched briefly the condition of the provinces before they were united, and, outlining the causes that led up to the union, dwelt at length upon the great progress made by Canada since that time. The playing of national music and singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the exercises to a close.