

Historic Sketch of Administrators of Indian Affairs.

/ prepared by DIAND.

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**Historic Sketch of Administrators of Indian Affairs, prepared by
the Department of Indian Affairs, dated March 31st, 1934.**

The first management of the Indian Department was Military in its character, the Commander of the Forces having the chief control and the Officers at the various posts acting as Superintendents or Agents.

It was found necessary to appoint an Officer whose sole duties would be in connection with Indian Affairs, and on 15th April, 1755, Sir William Johnson was appointed Indian Superintendent by General Braddock under authority of His Majesty King George the Second, with the rank of Major General. Sir William held this position up to the time of his death which took place on the 11th of July 1774.

Col. Guy Johnson was appointed temporarily by General Gage to succeed Sir William till His Majesty's pleasure should be known. This appointment was confirmed by a Dispatch dated the 8th of September, 1774, received through the Earl of Dartmouth and he held the position of Superintendent until February, 1782, when he was suspended owing to certain charges made against him.

Sir John Johnson was appointed Superintendent General and Inspector General by Royal Commission of date the 14th of March, 1782, and held this position till the office was abolished on the 25th March, 1828, from which date his name was placed on the pension list.

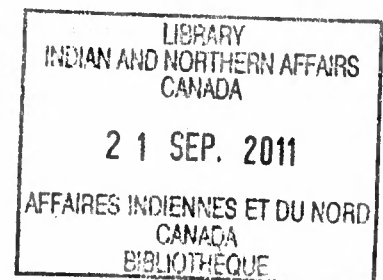
Sir John Johnson left Canada for England in September 1792 and was absent from duty till October, 1796.

A "General Order" dated the 20th September, 1792, directed that, in Sir John Johnson's absence, the Officers, Agents or Deputy Agents of the Indian Department in Upper and Lower Canada were to transmit to the office of the Superintendent General at Montreal, all accounts, requisitions, and reports and transactions of their respective Districts, to be examined, recorded, and countersigned by the Secretary of the General Indian Department and by him forwarded in the usual manner to Headquarters for the information and approbation of the Commander in Chief or General Commanding the Forces.

The business of the Department was transacted in this way until the 26th December, 1794, when the office of Deputy Superintendent General was created and Col. Alexander McKee appointed to that position with authority to take charge of the Department in the absence of the Superintendent General.

Col. McKee held the position of Deputy Superintendent General till the time of his death, 15th January, 1799.

On December 15th, 1796, the following Royal Instructions were issued to the Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada, investing them with administrative authority over Indian Affairs in Upper Canada.



On the 1st December 1826, the following "General Order" was issued:—

"His Lordship, the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to appoint Maj. Gen. Darling to be Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, vacant by the death of Col. Claus and with the view to relieve the Superintendent General, Sir John Johnson, on account of his age, from the laborious duties of the Correspondence and general charge of the Department, Maj. Gen. Darling will remain stationed at Headquarters."

"The duties hitherto performed by Col. Claus will be assumed until further orders by Lt. Col. Givins, being the officer next in seniority and resident at the headquarters of Maj. General Sir Peregrine Maitland in Upper Canada. Lt. Col. Napier will take charge of the duties particularly incident at Montreal."

"All the correspondence intended for the head of the Department will be addressed direct to Maj. Gen. Darling at Quebec, who will receive his orders in instructions from his Lordship the Commander of the Forces."

Sgd. C. FOSTER, Lt. Col.

Acting Deputy Adjt. General.

A subsequent general order was issued 2nd of August, 1828 as follows:—

"Agreeable to instructions received from His Majesty's Secretary of State, in a dispatch dated 27th of April last, the appointment of 'Superintendent General of Indian Department' and 'Inspector General of Indian Affairs' will cease from the 25th June last, from which date the Department will be placed under a Chief Superintendent. The Commander of the Forces is pleased to appoint Maj. Gen. Darling to this situation with a salary of £600 Sterling per annum and contingent charges for travelling Expenses."

"Sir John Johnson will be borne on the Pensions list of the Department from the 25th June, his garrison allowance will cease from the date of the receipt of this order at Montreal."

"Mr. John Brandt is appointed Superintendent of the Six Nations Indians with a salary of £200 Sterling per annum and the usual allowances. Appointment dated 25th June, 1828."

"Signed T. NOEL HILL.

Deputy Adjt. General."

Major General H. C. Darling left for England on the 11th of September, 1828, and Lieutenant Col. Napier was appointed to act for him during his absence, and continued to act as resident Agent and Secretary of Indian Affairs at Montreal until the 13th of April, 1830, when, by order of His Majesty's Government, the Indian Department in Upper Canada was separated from that of Lower Canada, the former being placed under His Excellency Sir John Colbourne, with Col. James Givins as Chief Superintendent for the Province.

The Department in Lower Canada was placed under the control of the Military Secretary at Quebec, who at that time, was Lieut. Col. Couper, and Lieut. Col. D. C. Napier was removed to the Military Secretary's Office, to act as Secretary with the pay and allowance of a Superintendent.

Col. Givins continued to act as Chief Superintendent for Upper Canada until 12th June, 1837 when he retired from the service and Samuel P. Jarvis was appointed to succeed him on the 13th June, 1837.

By a Proclamation, dated the 5th of February 1841, the reunion of Upper and Lower Canada was declared, terminating the office of Lieutenant Governor in these provinces. The union was known as the "Province of Canada" and the former Upper and Lower Canada became "Canada West" and "Canada East." However the old names continued to be used, perhaps more often than not, even in official documents.

On the 10th of February Lord Sydenham, the first Governor General of the Province of Canada, took the oath of office and Kingston was made the Capital of Canada.

Lord Sydenham died on the 19th of September 1841 and was succeeded in office by Sir Charles Bagot on the 12th of January 1842.

After 1841 the head office of the Department of Indian Affairs continued to be at the Seat of Government which under the old Province of Canada, was moved from one place to another. The following is a list of the places which were the seat of Government between 1841 and Confederation in 1867:—

- Kingston from February 1841 to March 1844.
- Montreal from March 1844 to November 1849.
- Toronto from November 1849 to October 1851.
- Quebec from October 1851 to October 1855.
- Toronto from October 1855 to May 1859.
- Quebec from May 1859 to October 1865.
- Ottawa from November 1865.

The Lieutenant-Governors and Administrators of Upper Canada were:—

Lt. Gov.—Simcoe, Col. John Graves, 12th Sept. 1791 to 10th April, 1799.

Adm.—Russell, Peter, 20th July, 1796 to 17th August, 1799.

Lt. Gov.—Hunter, Lt. Gen. Peter, 10th April, 1799 to 21st August, 1805.

Adm.—Grant, Alexander, 11th Sept. 1805 to 25th August, 1806.

Lt. Gov.—Gore, Francis, 25th Aug. 1806 to 9th October, 1811.

Adm.—Brock, Maj. Gen. Isaac, 9th Oct. 1811 to 13th October, 1812.

Adm.—Sheaffe, Maj. Gen. Roger Hale, 20th Oct, 1812 to 19th June, 1813.

Adm.—Rottenburg, Maj. Gen. Baron de Francis, 19th June 1813 to 13th Dec. 1813.

Adm.—Drummond, Lieut. Gen. G., 13th Dec. 1813 to 15th April 1815.

Lt. Gov.—Murray, Lt. Gov. Sir Geo., 25th April 1815 to 1st July 1815.

Lt. Gov.—Robinson, Maj. Gen. Sir F. P., 1st July 1815 to 26th Sept. 1815.

Lt. Gov.—Gore, Francis, 21st Sept. 1815 to 13th May 1816.

Indian Affairs in Upper Canada was placed under control of the Commander of the Forces by General Order of the 13th May 1816 and by General Order of the 13th April 1830 under the Lt. Govr. Sir John Colborne. Sir John continued in office until the 30th of November 1835 when he was succeeded by—

Lt. Gov.—Head, Sir Francis Bond, 25th July 1836 to 23rd March, 1838.

Lt. Gov.—Arthur, Maj. Genl. Sir Geo., 23rd March 1838 to 9th February 1841.

The following is a list of the Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of Lower Canada from 1800 to 1816.

Lt. Gov.—Milnes, R. S., 4th Nov. 1797 to 29th Nov. 1808.

Adm.—Dunn, Thos., 12th Aug. 1805 to 24th Oct. 1807.

Lt. Gov.—Burton, Francis M., 29th Nov. 1808 to 27th Jan. 1832.

Adm.—Dunn, Thos., 19th June 1811 to 14th Sept. 1811.

Adm.—Prevost, Sir George, 14th Sept. 1811 to 15th July 1812.

Adm.—Broek, Maj. Gen. Isaac, 9th Apr. 1812 to Oct. 13th 1812.

Adm.—de Rottenburg, Baron F., 20th Feb. 1813 to 20th Nov. 1814.

Adm.—Drummond, Sir Gordon, 4th Apr. 1815 to 13th May 1816.

Indian Affairs in Lower Canada was placed under the control of the Commander of the Forces by a General Order of the 13th May 1816.

There was considerable trouble in the filling of the vacancy caused by the death of Col. McKee. The difficulty arose over a dispute as to whether the patronage of the Department was under Civil or Military control.

The Duke of Kent, as Commander in Chief, appointed Col. John Connolly to the position of Deputy Superintendent General displacing Capt. Wm. Claus who had been appointed by Governor Hunter. Governor Hunter in reply to the notification of the appointment informed the Duke that the removal of Capt. Claus and the appointment of Col. Connolly would be highly prejudicial to his Majesty's service, and at the same time wrote to the Duke of Portland practically stating that he would not recognize Connolly and had sent his Order to Sir John Johnson to that effect. On these representations the Duke of York wrote to the Duke of Kent to cancel Connolly's appointment which was accordingly done on the 20th June, 1800.

With the appointment to the Position of Deputy Superintendent General, Capt. Claus, was promoted to rank of Colonel. He held the position of Deputy Superintendent General until his death on the 11th November, 1826.

At the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century the Department was divided, the office of the Superintendent General and the Secretary of the Department was in Montreal and that of the Deputy Superintendent General and the Assistant Secretary at Fort George (Niagara).

By a general order the 13th May, 1816, the management of Indian Affairs was placed under the control of the Commander of the Forces in the British North American Provinces.

By another general order, on the 13th April, 1830, the management of Indian Affairs in Upper Canada was placed under Sir John Colborne, the Lieut. Gov. for that Province, while that in Lower Canada remained under Military control.

The following is a list of the Commanders of the Forces from 1816 to 1844:—

Gen. Wilson—May 1816 to July 1816.

Sir John C. Sherbrooke, July 1816 to July 1818.

Duke of Richmond—July 1818 to August 1819.

Sir Peregrine Maitland—August 1819 to 1820.

Lord Dalhousie—June 1820 to September 1823.

Sir James Kempt—Sept. 1823 to October 1830.

Lord Aylmer—October 1830 to September 1835.

Sir John Colborne—September 1835 to October 1839.

Sir Richard D. Jackson—October 1839 to July 1840.

J. A. Hope—July 1840 to June 1845.

The seat of Government was at Ottawa for a little more than a year before Confederation and has continued there ever since.

Messrs. Rawson W. Rawson, John Davidson, and Wm. Hepburn were appointed by His Excellency the Governor General Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B. by authority of a Commission bearing date 10th Oct. 1842, to report on Indian Matters generally, and to recommend any changes that, in their opinion should be made in the manner of conducting the business of the Indian Department. Their report under date the 22nd of January 1844 recommends among other things:—

- 1st. "That the management of the Indians be placed under the Civil Secretary with the view of its being brought more immediately under the notice of the Governor General."
- 2nd. "That the two branches of the Department be united and the records be kept in one office. That the correspondence and central business be conducted at the seat of Government, under the Superintendent of a Chief Clerk at an annual salary of £300."
- 3rd. (Relates to appointment of an Accountant.)
- 4th. "That the office of Chief Superintendent in Upper Canada, and the present establishment of local officers, be reduced and that in lieu thereof three Indian Visitors be appointed at a salary of £300 a year with an allowance to be fixed for travelling expenses."
- 5th. "That the Province be divided into three districts according to the locality of the settlements and that each Visitor be charged with the superintendence of the separate districts. Lower Canada may form one, the Tribes now under the separate charge of the Chief Superintendent in Upper Canada may be united into a second and the remainder now under the charge of five resident Superintendents into a third."

These recommendations were partially carried into effect on the 15th May, 1844, the Chief Superintendent being informed by a letter of 25th April of that year, that, as the 15th of May had been fixed on for closing the public offices at Kingston preparatory to their removal to Montreal, the Governor General had directed that from that date the following changes would take place in the management of the Indian Department.

"The Correspondence and central business of the Department will be conducted at the seat of Government, under the orders of the Civil Secretary assisted by Mr. Geo. Vardon, the present clerk in the Indian Office, who will be attached for this purpose to the Indian branch of the Secretary's Office. The Chief Superintendent will deliver over to Mr. Vardon the Records of the Department as he will be charged with the preparation of the various accounts, estimates, requisitions, money warrants etc., which will relieve the Superintendent from that onerous portion of his duties and admit of his devoting more time to the moral, intellectual and physical improvements of the Indians under his superintendence."

The Chief Superintendent was further informed that the Resident Superintendents would be instructed to correspond direct with the Civil Secretary upon all matters connected with their district, and when it was thought necessary the Civil Secretary could refer the matter to the Chief Superintendent for the benefit of his opinion.

The Tribes under the charge of the Chief Superintendent were to continue under his immediate superintendence, and he was to be directed by the Governor General, when circumstances required, to visit the other settlements and to report upon any point on which particular information might be wanted.

Further changes were carried into effect on the 1st July, 1845. Mr. Jarvis being informed by the Civil Secretary on the 16th April, 1845, that Her Majesty's Secretary of State, acting on the recommendation of Messrs. Rawson, Davidson and Hepburn, had decided to abolish the office of Chief Superintendent and that his duties would cease from the 30th June, following.

The services of three resident Superintendents in Upper Canada, and two in Lower Canada were at the same time dispensed with.

The following is a list of the Civil Secretaries who were also Superintendents General of Indian Affairs:—

T. W. C. Murdoch, 10th Feb. 1841 to 4th Aug. 1842.
 R. W. Rawson, 5th Aug. 1842 to 12th June 1844.
 J. M. Higginson, 15th May, 1844, to 12th June 1846.
 Geo. Vardon, (Acting) 12th June 1846, to 30th March 1847.
 Maj. T. E. Campbell, 30th March 1847 to 30th Nov. 1849.
 Col. R. Bruce, 1st Dec. 1849 to 11th May 1854.
 L. Oliphant, 15th June 1854 to 18th Dec. 1854.
 Lord Bury, 19th Dec. 1854 to 24th Jan. 1856.
 S. Y. Chesley (Acting) 25th Jan. 1856 to 28th Feb. 1856.
 R. T. Pennefather, 28th Feb. 1856 to 30th June, 1860.

The following is the list of Governors General of the old Province of Canada under whose supervision these Civil Secretaries acted as Superintendents General:—

Sir Chas. Metcalfe—1843 to 1845.
 Earl of Cathcart—1846 to 1847.
 Earl of Elgin—1847 to 1854.
 Sir Edmund Head—1854 to 1861.

Until 1860 the Imperial Government was responsible for the Management and expense of Indian Affairs but in that year it was decided that the Province of Canada should assume the charge.

By the Act 23 Vic. Cap. 151 entitled "An Act respecting the management of the Indian lands and property" the management of Indian Affairs was brought under the control of the Crown Lands Department from 1st July, 1860, the Commissioner of Crown Lands being from that date, Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The Commissioners of Crown Lands who held the positions of Chief Superintendents of Indian Affairs were:

Hon. P. M. Vankoughnet, 1st July 1860 to 7th March, 1862.

Hon. Geo. Sherwood, 7th March 1862 to 21st May, 1862.

Hon. Wm. McDougall, 21st May 1862 to 30th March, 1864.

Hon. A. Campbell, 30th March 1864 to 30th June, 1867.

In 1867 the Province of Canada and the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were confederated and became the Dominion of Canada, under the British North America Act (an Imperial Statute 30-31 Vic. Cap. 3) and the old Province of Canada was again divided into two provinces, which were named Ontario and Quebec.

By this Act the administration of Indian Affairs, which had been under the management of the several provinces, came under the control of the Dominion of Canada.

The other provinces entered Confederation in the following order:

The North West Territories in 1869.

Manitoba in 1870.

British Columbia in 1871.

Prince Edward Island in 1873.

In 1905 the North West Territories was divided into three parts. One part became the province of Alberta, another the province of Saskatchewan and the third part is still the North West Territories.

Indian Affairs was attached to the Department of the Secretary of State at the time of Confederation and the following Secretaries of State were also Superintendents General of Indian Affairs:

Hon. H. L. Langevin, 1st July 1867 to 7th Dec. 1869.

Hon. Jos. Howe, 8th Dec. 1869 to 6th Jan. 1873.

Hon. Thos. N. Gibbs, 14th June 1873 to 30th June 1873.

By the Act 36, Vic. Cap. 24, the Department of the Interior was created from 1st July 1873 and the Indian Branch attached to that Department.

The following is list of the Superintendents General from the date of the creation of the Interior Department:

Hon. Alex. Campbell, 1st July 1873 to 6th Nov. 1873.

Hon. David Laird, 7th Nov. 1873 to 6th Oct. 1876.

Hon. David Mills, 24th Oct. 1876 to 16th Oct. 1878.

Rt. Hon. Sir J. A. Macdonald 17th Oct. 1878 to 16th Oct. 1883.

Sir D. L. MacPherson 17th Oct. 1883 to 4th Aug. 1885.

Hon. Thos. White 5th Aug. 1885 to 21st April 1888.

Hon. Edgar Dewdney 3rd Aug. 1888 to 16th Oct. 1892.

Hon. T. Mayne Daly 17th Oct. 1892 to 30th Apr. 1896.

Hon. Hugh J. Macdonald 1st May 1896 to 8th July 1896.

Hon. Clifford Sifton 17th Nov. 1896 to 1st March 1905.

Hon. Frank Oliver 8th April 1905 to 6th Oct. 1911.

Hon. Robt Rogers 10th Oct. 1911 to 28th Oct. 1912.

Hon. Wm. J. Roche, M.D., 29th Oct. 1912 to 12th Oct. 1917.

Hon. Arthur Meighen 12th Oct. 1917 to 10th July 1920.

Hon. Sir James A. Laugheed, 10th July 1920 to Dec. 1921.

Hon. Charles Stewart 29th Dec. 1921 to June 1926.

Hon. H. H. Stevens (Actg.) 29th June 1926 to 13th July 1926.

Hon. R. B. Bennett (Actg.) 13th July 1926 to Sept. 1926.

Hon. Charles Stewart 25th Sept. 1926 to 19th June 1930.

(By Order in Council of the 19th of June 1930 the Department of Indian Affairs was placed under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization).

Hon. Ian Alistair MacKenzie 19th June 1930 to Aug. 1930.

(By Order in Council of the 7th of August 1930 the Order in Council of the 19th of June 1930 placing Indian Affairs under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization was cancelled).

Hon. Thomas Gerow Murphy 7th Aug. 1930.

Since 1880 the Indian Department has been a separate one under the control of the Minister of the Interior, by the Act 43 Vic. Cap. 28 assented to 7th May, 1880.

By an Order in Council of date the 17th March, 1862, the office of the Deputy Superintendent General was revived, and Wm. Spragge appointed to that position. Mr. Spragge continued his office until his death 16th April, 1874.

The following is the list of his successors in office:

L. Vankoughnet, 1st July, 1874 to 1st Oct. 1893.

Hayter Reed, 1st Oct. 1893 to 20th June 1897.

Jas. A. Smart 1st July 1897 to 20th Nov. 1902.

Frank Pedley, 21st Nov. 1902 to 11th Oct. 1913.

Duncan C. Scott, 11th Oct. 1913 to 30th March 1932.

Harold W. McGill, M.D., 13th Oct. 1933 to the present date.

G. M. MATHESON,

Registrar.

31st March, 1934.