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*Name of  
author's magazine  
mentioned in  
Bayer & Co.  
"The Canadian Messenger"*



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
REGINA, SASK.

October 8, 1955.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen,  
Canadian General Securities Ltd.,  
50 King St. W.,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

Am most interested in your comments in yours of October 4th on the second volume of Creighton's biography of Macdonald. I haven't finished reading it yet but what I have read stamps it as on a par at least with the first volume. I, too, have noticed in what I have read the frequent references to John A's health. I suppose Creighton's answer would be that the state of a man's health may well affect his thinking and actions and probably, in Macdonald's case at least, this was frequently true.

I do not wonder that you have been struck by the wealth of detail (much of it irrelevant and inconsequential) in the book. I think this can be explained in part as resulting from a very assiduous examination of newspapers, in which details as to weather etc. might be found. And of course he had Lady Macdonald's diary to use, and this would very likely provide a great many homely little details. It may be that Creighton has invented some of these touches but at least he has the saving grace of writing extraordinarily well and for that we can all tolerate what may be occasional flights of imagination.

Was glad to see that John Stevenson in Saturday Night devoted some space to the Ferns-Ostry article and commented on the failure of the Conservative papers to take advantage of it. But of course to do so would be "partisan politics" and apparently in the minds of namby-pamby editors and politicians partisanship must be shunned like the plague.

Yours sincerely,

*Rapin.*

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