

of the people. So we must never forget that social and economic and political systems are not ends in themselves, but the means to serve the needs and the dreams of Canadians as individuals, whatever their condition, whatever their racial origin, whatever their language, whatever their creed.

Today, we not only acknowledge the Canadian dream of 100 years ago. We are hailing its present reality, and accepting the new problems, as well as the new opportunities it presents. We have our traditions from the past. We have our attachments to language and culture arising from our origins. But we are also a people of today — a nation of the here and now — but eager to move forward.

As Prime Minister, I recognize more than most that we still have many problems in Canada: economic, political and social.

But only the faint in heart and timid in spirit among us believe the challenges of the Canada of today are beyond the powers of this generation of Canadians. Where Canada is concerned, I am a militant optimist.

LESSONS OF HISTORY

We can meet our tests and we can solve our problems as long as our will remains strong and our patience and civility toward each other endure. Sir John A. Macdonald could not have done his great work without these two things: patience and civility.

History teaches us many lessons, including the importance of profiting in the present from the experience of the past. Confederation was not forged from bullets and bloodshed. But neither did this country come into being because of motives that were purely emotional or altruistic and oriented only to some distant tomorrow. Canada was established by reasonable men who, in sensible concern for their own current interests, chose to be reconciled rather than divided by the hard realities of their time. They had dreams in their hearts but they were not unaware of the material possibilities in the future for the nation they were forging out of mature and honourable compromise. They built Canada primarily out of their concern to settle the problems and to meet the challenges of their own present.

No one better exemplified this than the great man we are honouring today. By securing the present in 1867, Sir John and his colleagues laid the foundations for the Canada of *their* future; the Canada of *our* today.

The way of life we enjoy in Canada today and the expanded dimensions of our individual freedom and opportunity we can trace back to determination and dedication of the Fathers of Confederation to meet the challenges of *their* times.

We remember today, especially, that pre-eminent among those Founding Fathers was Sir John A. Macdonald, who showed his faith in Canada even before there was a Canada as we know it.

As we celebrate their centennial, we can most effectively ensure a continuing Canadian future by dedicating ourselves to facing and solving the problems of the Canada of *our* times. That is the way in which we can best honour Sir John A. Macdonald and the men who, with him, made Canada.

RECORD WHEAT YEAR

Mr. Robert H. Winters, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, tabled a statement in the House of Commons recently, which had been issued by the Canadian Wheat Board, regarding the final payment on wheat delivered to the Board during the 1965-66 crop year. The following is a partial text:

...Producers delivered a total of 559,790,073 bushels of wheat to the Board in the 1965-66 crop year, which included 18,932,369 bushels of Durum wheat.

The amount of the final payment to be distributed to producers is \$270,028,575 — which is \$70 million higher than last year's payment and is exceeded only slightly by the record payment of \$272 million made on the 1963-64 pool account, when a larger volume of wheat was marketed. Of this amount, \$9,948,861 will be distributed to producers who delivered Durum wheat.

These sums are not a final payment by the Government of Canada, but represent the net returns of the Canadian Wheat Board in the marketing of Western Canadian wheat for the 1965-66 crop year.

The average final payment for wheat other than Durum is 48.087 cents a bushel. The average final payment for Durum wheat is 52.549 cents a bushel. The overall average of 48.237 cents a bushel is the largest average final payment in the history of the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Board will commence issuing final payment cheques to producers on January 17, 1967. This is the earliest date on which final payments have been made in the last 14 years....

The accounting for the oats and barley pools for the 1965-66 crop year is under way, and distribution of the cheques will follow the distribution of the wheat payments.

It is expected that the total of the payments for wheat, oats and barley will be at a record level.

Congratulations are due to all concerned in the growing, handling, grading, transporting and selling of wheat for their contribution to a most successful marketing year....

LOFTY CENTENNIAL PROJECT

A mountain climb, co-ordinated by the Yukon Territorial Government, the Alpine Club of Canada and the Arctic Institute of North America, and helped by a grant from the Centennial Commission, will enable some 260 of Canada's most experienced alpinists to try and reach the peaks of the St. Elias Icefield Ranges, near the Alaska border, as a centennial project.

Swirling curtains of snow that suddenly cut off vision, unpredictable winds, jagged knives of rock, hidden crevices and "thin" air are some of the descriptions of conditions that prevail in the wind-swept ranges in the Yukon, the place that poet Robert W. Service described as "The land that God forgot." The bleak and lonely St. Elias Ranges are surpassed in height and grandeur only by Mount McKinley in Alaska, the Andes and the Himalayas.