

THE BRUNSWICKAN

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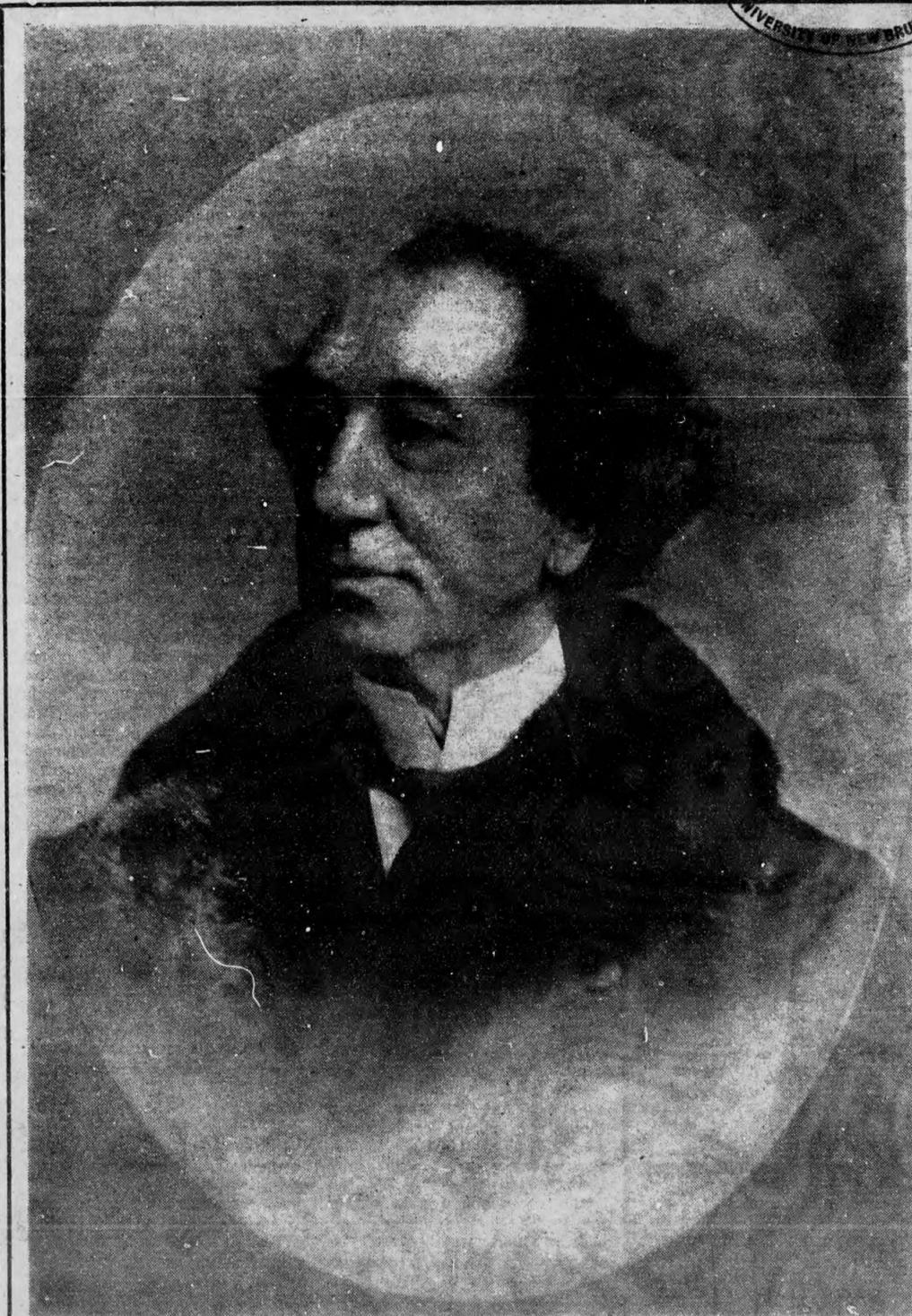
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FREE

Sir John A. Macdonald is 159 years old today!



Sir John A. Macdonald would have been 159 years old today. Since his death in 1891, after a political career as Canada's first prime minister and one of our founders, nothing has been done to honor him annually. We have a national holiday for Queen Victoria's birthday, which is fine and dandy, however, The Brunswickan staff feels it is time Sir John A. was in the spotlight. Therefore, we dedicate our front page to him on this, the anniversary of his birth.

Let's face it; most countries honor their first statesman in some way once a year. The United States celebrates Washington's birthday and even Columbus Day.

But what does Canada do? Why we celebrate Victoria Day. But what about good ole Sir John A. Macdonald (Canada's first prime minister for those of you who may have forgotten)?

As our first PM back in 1867, Sir John A. is a neglected man. After all, how many of you knew today is his 159th birthday!

Yes, Sir John A. Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland January 11, 1815 and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was five years old.

The staff of the Brunswickan felt something must be done, so that is why we have dedicated our front page to Sir John A. on this, his birthday, in hopes that some incentive will be taken to honor him in future years. After all, it was partly through his oratorical genius that Canada came to be.

As a lawyer and a Conservative, he won the Kingston seat in the legislative assembly of Canada in 1844 and later became the receiver general at the age of 32. He held the position of attorney general for Canada West until 1855 and formed a new ministry in the government in 1857.

In 1864 he attended the Charlottetown Conference concerning Maritime Union and was a major figure at the Quebec Conference.

Sir John A. Macdonald was sworn in as the first prime minister of Canada July 1, 1867 by the first Governor General, Lord Monck.

He held the position until 1873 when he resigned due to a financial scandal and was back in power in 1878 until his death on June 6, 1891.

The Brunswickan takes this opportunity to wish Sir John A. what might have been a very happy 159th birthday!

