

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Re: Maintenance by Government of Canada of
Grave of Sir John A. Macdonald

The Department of Mines and Resources advises that it has the necessary authority to take over the maintenance of the grave.

As the property belongs to the Cemetery Board, subject to such rights which the heirs may possess, there would, doubtless, be an objection on the part of the Cemetery Board to conveying the property to the Crown, but Mr. Crerar is of the opinion that an arrangement could probably be made providing that the cost of maintenance be born in future by the Department of Mines and Resources. (Hitherto the Historic Sites and Monuments Board has never assumed responsibility in connection with the commemoration of cemeteries, but Mr. Crerar has stated that the Board would doubtless be willing to make an exception in the case of the grave of Sir John A. Macdonald.)

Annual maintenance expenditure could be paid out of the National Parks vote and would not require any special appropriation.

An arrangement with the Cemetery Board could provide for either the work of maintenance being done by the cemetery authorities and payment made in compensation by the Department, or for the Department itself to carry out the actual work of maintenance.

In the event of Council deciding to proceed in the matter, it might be appropriate for the Prime Minister himself to convey the offer to the Chairman of the Cemetery Board.

E. A. P.

September 18, 1937

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, 4, volume 171, pages C121363-C121949)

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