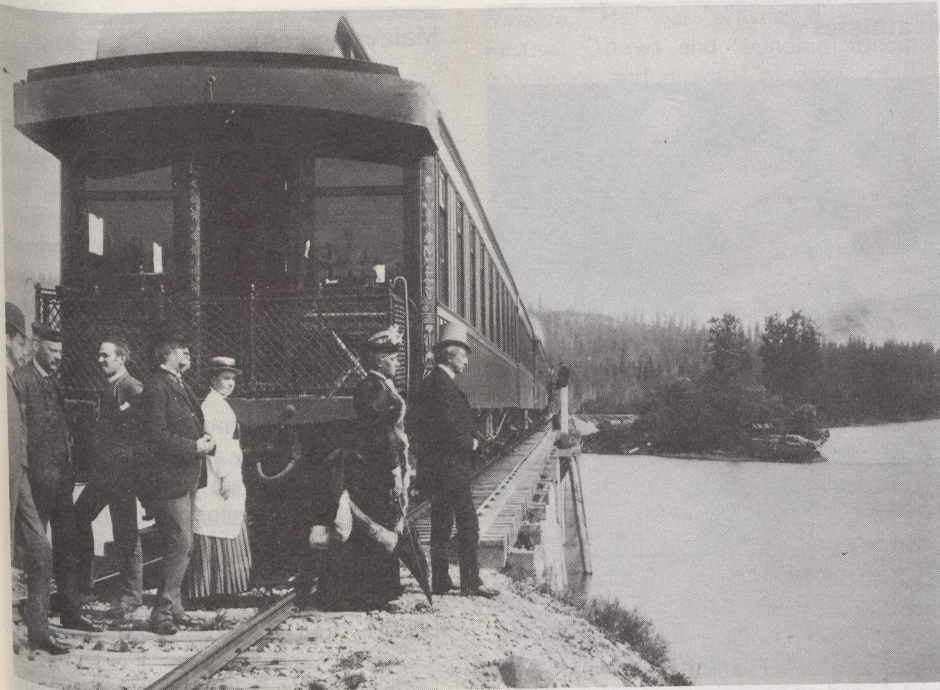


ews of the arts



Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald at Stave River, British Columbia. All his life he pursued a dream of a continental nation bound together by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In his new government Macdonald doubled as Prime Minister and Minister of Indian Affairs, and there is clear evidence that in the latter capacity he neglected his duties. The procrastination which had earned him the nickname "Old Tomorrow" reaped a bloody harvest in the

1885 uprising led by Louis Riel, leader of the Métis (Indians of French extraction). Macdonald refused to save Riel from the gallows, despite his evident insanity, preferring to stand by the court's decision. Riel's execution rekindled all the old racial animosities. For the next few

years Macdonald was caught in a cross-fire between extremists in English Canada and Quebec.

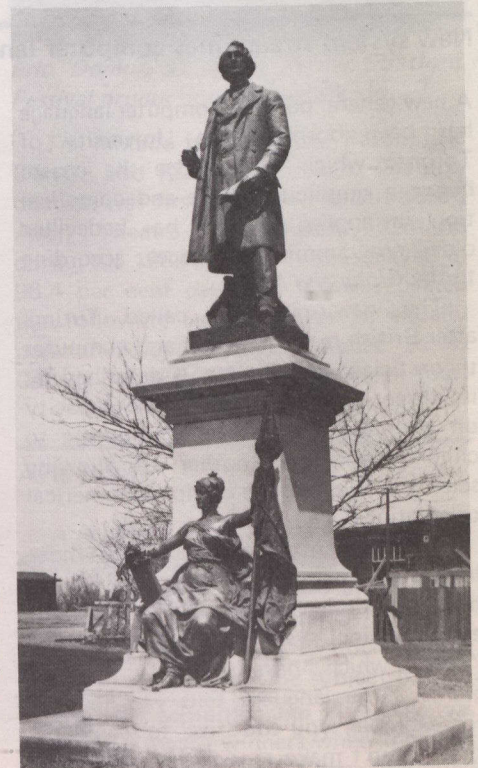
In the meantime he pursued his great dream of a continental nation bound together by the Canadian Pacific Railway which would be protected militarily by its alliance with Britain and economically by his "national policy" of tariffs.

He fought his last election against the opposition platform of commercial union with the United States. He won, but the hard campaigning took its toll on his frail 76-year-old constitution. When he died of a stroke on June 6, 1891, there was an outpouring of sorrow among Canadians everywhere. He had said of himself that no man had ever loved a country more than he loved Canada. And no Canadian politician was ever loved more in return.

He was, as even his enemies admitted, indispensable. Four consecutive Conservative prime ministers tried to carry on his work and failed. Even today, almost a century after his death, the essential tone of moderation which Macdonald set for Canadian affairs is still with us. A voice once called out during an election rally: "You'll never die, John A.!" In the sense that his generous and reasonable spirit lives on among his countrymen, he never did.



The funeral procession of Sir John A. Macdonald moving from the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Sir John A. died of a stroke on June 6, 1891. In his own defence against charges of corruption, he said "...There does not exist in Canada a man who has given more of his heart, more of his wealth, more of his intellect and power, such as they may be, for the good of this Dominion of Canada."



Sir John A. Macdonald monument at the eastern entrance of House of Commons in Ottawa.

PAC, C-7125

PAC, PA-34425