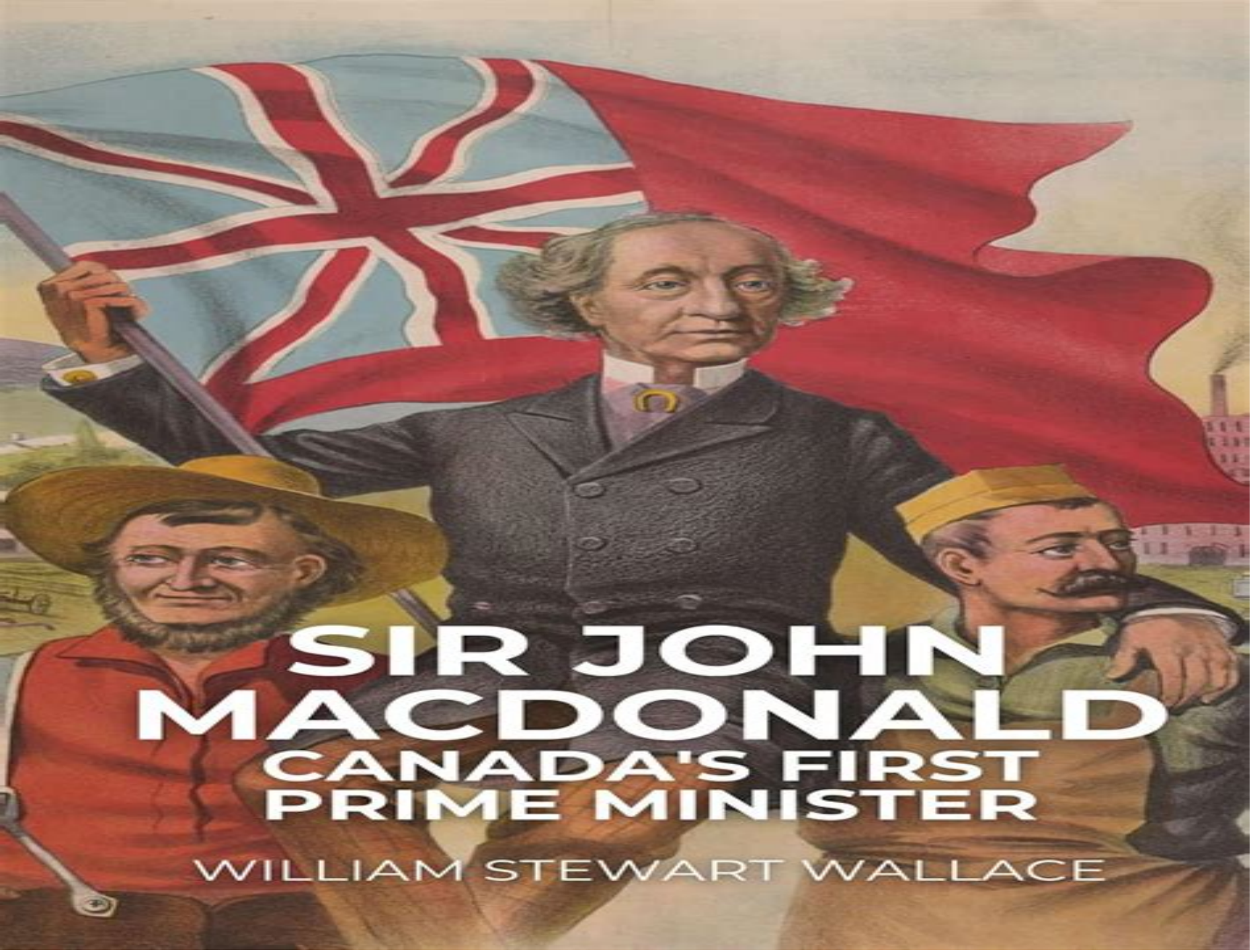




SIR JOHN MACDONALD

CANADA'S FIRST
PRIME MINISTER

WILLIAM STEWART WALLACE

Sir John A Macdonald The Man And The Politician

Richard J. Gwyn



Sir John A Macdonald The Man And The Politician:

Sir John A. Macdonald Donald Swainson,1989 *John A. Macdonald* Donald Swainson,1971 A series of well illustrated and lively brief biographies that emphasize character anecdote and social history often by means of vivid extracts from contemporary sources while giving a clear summary of the main historical events and achievements Publisher *The John A. Macdonald Retrospective 2-Book Bundle* Ged Martin,2014-10-29 This special 2 book bundle contains a number of perspectives on a man who was arguably Canada s most famous political leader a figure of legendary proportions in the history of Canada s birth and development Ged Martin s biography tells Macdonald s story Shocked by Canada s 1837 rebellions Macdonald sought to build alliances and avoid future conflicts Thanks to financial worries and an alcohol problem he almost quit politics in 1864 The challenge of building Confederation harnessed his skills and in 1867 he became the country s first prime minister He drove the Dominion s westward expansion rapidly incorporating the Prairies and British Columbia before a railway contract scandal unseated him in 1873 He conquered his drinking problem and rebuilt the Conservative Party to regain power in 1878 The centrepiece of his protectionist National Policy was the transcontinental railway but a western uprising in 1885 was followed by the controversial execution of rebel leader Louis Riel Although dominant nationally this popular hero had many flaws Macdonald at 200 presents fifteen fresh interpretations of Canada s founding prime minister published for the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth in 1815 Crisply written by recognized scholars and specialists the collection throws new light on Macdonald s formative role in shaping government promoting women s rights managing the nascent economy supervising westward expansion overseeing relations with Native peoples and dealing with Fenian terrorism A special section deals with how Macdonald has or has not been remembered by historians as well as the general public The book concludes with an afterword by prominent Macdonald biographer Richard Gwyn Macdonald emerges as a man of full dimensions an historical figure that is surprisingly relevant to our own times Includes John A Macdonald Macdonald at 200 **John A** Richard J. Gwyn,2009-03-18 The first full scale biography of Canada s first prime minister in half a century by one of our best known and most highly regarded political writers The first volume of Richard Gwyn s definitive biography of John A Macdonald follows his life from his birth in Scotland in 1815 to his emigration with his family to Kingston Ontario to his days as a young rising lawyer to his tragedy ridden first marriage to the birth of his political ambitions to his commitment to the all but impossible challenge of achieving Confederation to his presiding with his second wife Agnes over the first Canada Day of the new Dominion in 1867 Colourful intensely human and with a full measure of human frailties Macdonald was beyond question Canada s most important prime minister This volume describes how Macdonald developed Canada s first true national political party encompassing French and English and occupying the centre of the political spectrum To perpetuate this party Macdonald made systematic use of patronage to recruit talent and to bond supporters a system of politics that continues to this day Gwyn judges that Macdonald if operating on a small stage possessed

political skills of manipulation and deception as well as an extraordinary grasp of human nature of the same calibre as the greats of his time such as Disraeli and Lincoln Confederation is the centerpiece here and Gwyn's commentary on Macdonald's pivotal role is original and provocative But his most striking analysis is that the greatest accomplishment of nineteenth century Canadians was not Confederation but rather to decide not to become Americans Macdonald saw Confederation as a means to an end its purpose being to serve as a loud and clear demonstration of the existence of a national will to survive The two threats Macdonald had to contend with were those of annexation by the United States perhaps by force perhaps by osmosis and equally that Britain just might let that annexation happen to avoid a conflict with the continent's new and unbeatable power Gwyn describes Macdonald as Canada's first anti American And in pages brimming with anecdote insight detail and originality he has created an indelible portrait of the irreplaceable man the man who made us Macdonald hadn't so much created a nation as manipulated and seduced and connived and bullied it into existence against the wishes of most of its own citizens Now that Confederation was done Macdonald would have to do it all over again having conjured up a child nation he would have to nurture it through adolescence towards adulthood How he did this is however another story He never made the least attempt to hide his vice unlike say his contemporary William Gladstone with his sallies across London to save prostitutes or Mackenzie King with his crystal ball gazing Not only was Macdonald entirely unashamed of his behaviour he often actually drew attention to it as in his famous response to a heckler who accused him of being drunk at a public meeting Yes but the people would prefer John A drunk to George Brown sober There was no hypocrisy in Macdonald's make up nor any fear from John A Macdonald *John A.: 1815-1867* Richard J. Gwyn, 2007 But it wasn't easy The wily Macdonald faced constant crises throughout these years from Louis Riel's two rebellions through to the Pacific Scandal that almost undid his government and his quest to find the spine of the nation the railroad that would link east to west Gwyn paints a superb portrait of Canada and its leaders through these formative years and also delves deep to show us Macdonald the man as he marries for the second time deals with the birth of a disabled child and the assassination of his close friend Darcy McGee and wrestles with whether Riel should hang pub desc v 2 Nation Maker Richard J. Gwyn, 2011 The second volume of a two volume biography of the life and political career of Canada's first prime minister Sir John A Macdonald

Macdonald at 200 Patrice Dutil, Roger Hall, 2014-10-10 Here are fifteen fresh interpretations of Canada's founding Prime Minister published for the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth in 1815 Well researched and crisply written by recognized scholars and specialists the collection throws new light on Macdonald's formative role in our nation **The Right Balance** Hugh Segal, 2011 A provocative case for the special balance and uniquely Canadian nature of the Conservative imperative throughout our history In a manner that reflects his long time academic and practitioner's association with conservative politics and ideas in Canada Hugh Segal traces the deep historical roots of Canadian conservatism and the themes that unite its pre and post confederation reality with today's challenges and issues The Right

Balance connects the historical roots and exclusive intellectual principles of Canadian conservatism to the fundamental idea of Canada with a new and insightful perspective Provocative and timely this book puts the present Stephen Harper led Conservative Party of Canada into a dynamic historical context and gives readers fresh insights into how Canadian conservatism is different and why providing depth and texture to today s headlines The Right Balance will appeal to both adults and students who are interested in the economics ideas and DNA of our present political debates Canada's Origins Janet Ajzenstat,1995-11-15 Ajzenstat and Smith challenge the idea of Canada as a country whose liberal individualism unlike that of the United States is redeemed by a tradition of government intervention in economic and social life the so called tory touch This ground breaking book begins with the now classic article in which the red tory view was formulated It then presents a new and illuminating picture of Canadian political life in which liberal individualism confronts not toryism but the participatory tradition of civic republicanism In the final section the two editors one a liberal the other a civic republican debate the crucial questions dominating Canadian politics today including Quebec s search for recognition from the perspective of their shared understanding of Canada s founding Canadian History: Confederation to the present Martin Brook Taylor,Doug Owram,1994-01-01 In these two volumes which replace the Reader s Guide to Canadian History experts provide a select and critical guide to historical writing about pre and post Confederation Canada with an emphasis on the most recent scholarship Cover

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