
CANADA

A Celebration of our Heritage



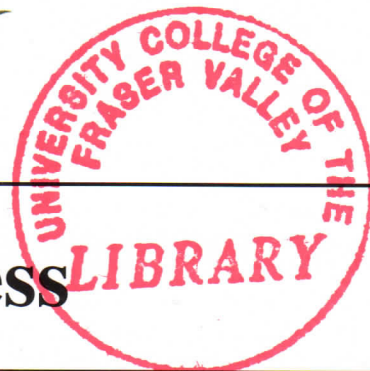
J.M.S. Careless

CANADA

A Celebration of our Heritage



J.M.S. Careless



“Partners in Progress” – P.J. Koene

CANADA: A Celebration of Our Heritage

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Author:

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Telemarketing:

Kathi L. Gortzen

Anita Deschamps

Jo-Ann Martin-Laval

Website Construction:

Christopher N. Koene

Administration and Support Staff:

Albert and Annette Koene

Antoinette Koene

David J. Koene

Elisa J. Koene

Judith D. Koene

Rebecca Lise

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Overleaf. Canada's motto "A mari usque ad mare" ("From sea unto sea") was taken from the Judeo-Christian Scripture's Psalm 72:8, which reads, "He [God] shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." These highly suitable words for a Canadian union were put forward by Samuel Leonard Tilley of New Brunswick in discussions of that union: to be adopted at its outset in 1867. The Arms of the Dominion of Canada were set forth in 1921 by a committee of senior government officials and the College of Arms in Britain, there to be approved and proclaimed by King George V, on November 21, 1921. The three lions in the crest are symbols of England, first used as early as 1198, while the single lion inside the frame is Scottish, and dates before 1285. The Irish harp was adopted about 1541 for the Kingdom of Ireland by King Henry VIII. The fleurs-de-lis were a badge used by the Kings of France since the 12th century. And the maple leaf itself was called the "emblem of Canada" as early as 1805 by

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| About the Author | 4 |
| Foreword | 5 |
| 1. Canada Before Confederation: A Résumé. | 6 |
| Heritage of Land and Native Peoples | 8 |
| French and English Colonial Beginnings | 19 |
| The Emergence of British North America | 30 |
| The Achieving of Self-Government and Union | 39 |
| 2. The Age of Macdonald: 1867 - 1891. | 54 |
| The New Federal Dominion | 56 |
| Bringing in the West | 65 |
| Macdonald Nationalism and the C.P.R. | 72 |
| Macdonald Nationalism on the Defensive | 84 |
| 3. The World of Laurier: 1891 - 1911. | 92 |
| Fall of Conservatism and Rise of Liberalism | 95 |
| Western Growth and the New Century Boom | 99 |
| Anglo-Imperialism, French Identity and Laurier Nationalism | 111 |
| The End of the Laurier Regime | 117 |
| 4. The Era of the First World War: 1911 - 1921. | 122 |
| Borden Conservatism and the Coming of War, 1911-1914 | 124 |
| Canada's Fighting War — and Dominion Status, 1915-1919 | 131 |
| Home Front Prosperity and Conscription Crisis, 1914-1918 | 139 |
| Post-War Transition, 1919-1921 | 149 |
| 5. Prosperity, Depression and Mackenzie King: 1921 - 1939 | 156 |
| King Liberalism Takes Hold | 158 |
| External Advances in Nationalism | 168 |
| The Impacts of Depression — and R.B. Bennett | 175 |
| Return to King, and Approach to War | 187 |
| 6. The Era of the Second World War: 1939 - 1949. | 194 |
| Canada in the Battle Zones, 1939-1945 | 196 |
| The Canadian War Effort | 209 |
| Wartime Politics, Internal and External | 218 |
| Post-War Resurgence and Advances, 1945-1949 | 225 |
| 7. Mid-Century Growth and National Problems: 1949 - 1972 | 232 |
| St. Laurent and the Fifties Boom | 234 |
| Diefenbaker, Populist Conservatism and Regionalism | 248 |
| Pearson, Co-Operative Federalism, and Nationalism in Trouble | 256 |
| The Emergence of Trudeau | 263 |
| 8. Issues of the Nearest Age: from 1972 | 268 |
| Later-Century Years: Economic and Technological Growth | 270 |
| Later-Century Years: Social and Ethnic Changes | 286 |
| Trudeau Federalism, Quebec Separatism and the Constitution, 1972-84 | 293 |
| Mulroney to Chrétien, and Still the Constitution | 301 |
| 9. Partners in Progress. | 321 |
| Photo Credits | 456 |
| Index | 457 |

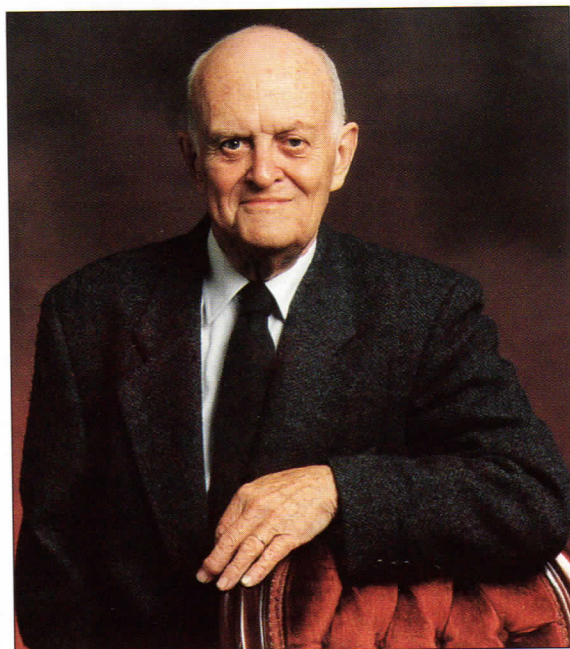
About the Author

James Maurice Stockford Careless was born in Toronto on February 17, 1919. He earned his B.A. in 1940 from the University of Toronto, and his M.A. in 1941 and Ph.D. in 1950 from Harvard University. He served at the Canadian Naval Headquarters in Ottawa from 1942-43, and the Department of External Affairs from 1943-45 (including voyages to Spain and Sweden in the diplomatic ship "Gripsholm," in 1944, exchanging Allied and German prisoners of war).

He was appointed a Lecturer (History) at the University of Toronto in 1945, Assistant Professor 1949, Associate Professor 1954, Professor 1959 (Chairman of History Department, 1959-67), and University Professor in 1977. He held the Rockefeller award (to Cambridge University) 1955-56, Carnegie award (to Australian Universities) 1958, visiting Professorship, University of Victoria 1968-69, Senior Research Fellowship, Australian National University, Canberra, 1978. He was appointed University Professor Emeritus, 1984, Senior Fellow Emeritus, Massey College, 1985, Senior Research Associate, Victoria College, 1987, Donald Creighton Lecturer, University of Toronto, 1987.

Careless is the author, or co-author, of numerous works, including *Canada, A Story of Challenge* (1953; Japanese Edition, 1978; latest Edition, 1986), *Brown of the Globe* (2 volumes 1959, 1963), *Union of the Canadas* (1967), *Colonists and Canadians* (1971), *Rise of Cities in Canada* (1978), *PreConfederation Premiers* (1980), *Toronto to 1918* (1984), *Frontier and Metropolis* (1989), *Careless at Work* (1990), and *ONTARIO: A Celebration of Our Heritage* (1991, 1992, 1993). He has published many articles and reviews, in both scholarly and popular journals, and essays in collective volumes.

His numerous distinctions include: Governor General's Award for 1954 and 1964; University of British



James Maurice Stockford Careless, Ph.D., O.C.

Columbia Medal for Biography 1960; Tyrrell Medal, Royal Society of Canada 1962; Cruikshank Medal, Ontario Historical Society 1967; City of Toronto Awards, 1984 and 1985; Doctor of Laws or Letters, Laurentian University 1979, Memorial University 1981, University of Victoria, 1982, Royal Roads, 1983, McMaster, 1983, U.N.B., 1984, Calgary, 1986. He has served as President of the Canadian Historical Association in 1968-69, Fellow Royal Society of Canada since 1962, Chairman Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada 1980-85. He was awarded Officer of the Order of Canada, 1981, Order of Ontario, 1987, National Heritage Award, 1987.

His many public services include: Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation 1975-81 (member of preceding Ontario Historic Sites Board 1954-75); Trustee, Ontario Science Centre 1965-73; Trustee, Ontario Historical Studies Series since 1975; Member, Ontario Commission on Post-Secondary Education, 1969-73; Member, Historic Sites and Monuments Board, 1972-85. He also served as Chairman of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario from 1978-88; co-editor, *Canadian Historical Review* 1948-58; advisor, National Film Board historical series 1961-66; consultant, National Museum of Man urban historical series 1976-82; and variously of numbers of CBC and TVO radio or television scripts. He also served as Chairman of the Ontario Historical Studies Series since 1982.

J.M.S. Careless has travelled and lectured in Canada, United States, Great Britain, Australia, India, and Japan. He has served as the Canadian editor for the *Book of Knowledge*, and participated in varied radio and television programs, as well as maintaining a major concern with teaching and writing Canadian History.

Foreword



His Excellency The Right Honourable
Roméo LeBlanc, P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D.
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

In a country as large and diverse as Canada, one of the greatest challenges we face is creating a unified sense of what it is to be Canadian. *Canada: A Celebration of Our Heritage* chronicles the values that we share and the history that bonds us together. This impressive volume is a rich overview of our accomplishments, traditions and ideals. I believe it reminds us that, like those who helped build this nation, we hold the key to our future in our hands.

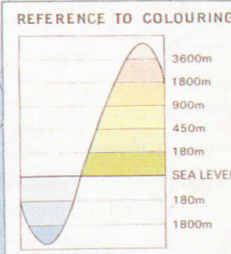
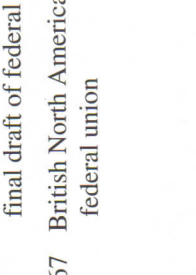
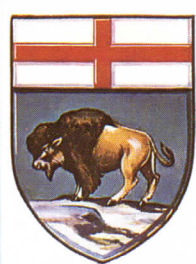
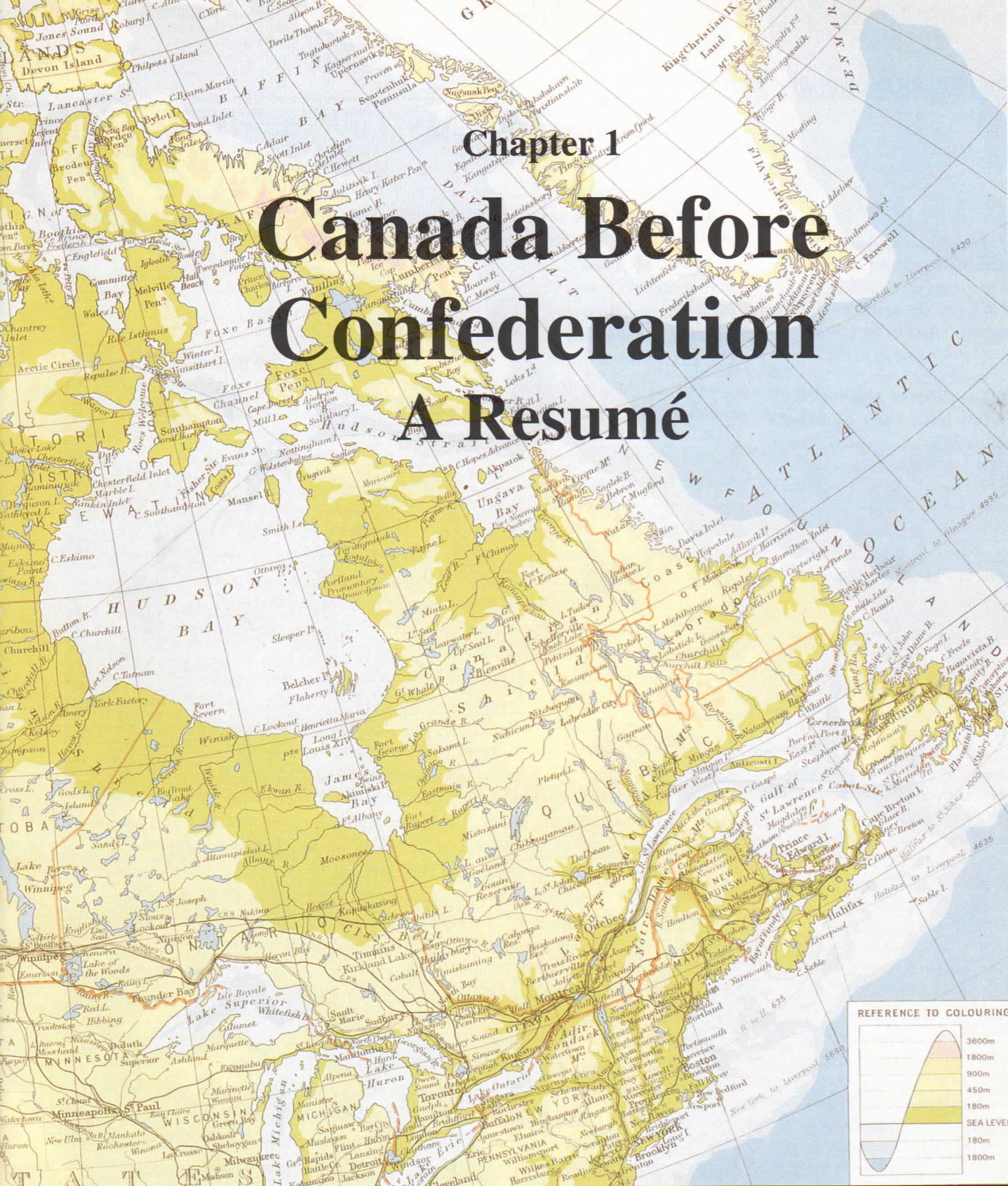
The renowned Canadian historian, A.R.M. Lower, wrote: "Canada has been created because there has existed within the hearts of its people a determination to build for themselves an enduring home." How better to describe our country? Throughout our history, the constraints of geography, politics and economics have suggested that Canada should never have come into being. Yet we have overcome these obstacles in a spirit of fairness, tolerance and compassion to become one of the most admired countries in the world.

The stories in *Canada: A Celebration of Our Heritage* trace our visions, doubts, hopes and dreams. These are tales of the life and growth of a nation with a pioneering passion that is found not only in the paddle of a voyageur that helped open a continent, but also in the Canadarm that is exploring the frontier of space.

Canada is a young country and we often question ourselves and our place in the world. Nevertheless, we have made great achievements and we have progressed at an astonishing pace. *Canada: A Celebration of Our Heritage* is an eloquent and fascinating reminder of where we came from, who we are and where we are headed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Roméo LeBlanc".

Roméo LeBlanc



- 1 Constitutional Act organizes Upper and Lower Canada
- 3 Alexander Mackenzie reaches Pacific shores
- 2-14 War of 1812
- 0s Reform movements rise in B.N.A. colonies
- 1 North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company merge
- 4 Lower Canada Reformers issue Ninety-Two resolutions
- 7 Rebellions in Upper and Lower Canadas
- 9 Durham Report presented
- 1 Act of Union combines the two Canadas
- 6 Oregon Treaty signed
- 3 St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railway opens, Montreal to Portland, Maine
- 4 Reciprocity Treaty with United States
- 8 Gold discovered in Fraser Valley
- Province of British Columbia (BC) erected
- 60 Grand Trunk Railway spans Province of Canada
- 64 Charlottetown Conference endorses idea of Confederation
- Quebec Conference approves plan of Confederation
- 66 Vancouver Island & British Columbia unite to form single province
- London Conference produces final draft of federal union
- 67 British North America Act erects federal union



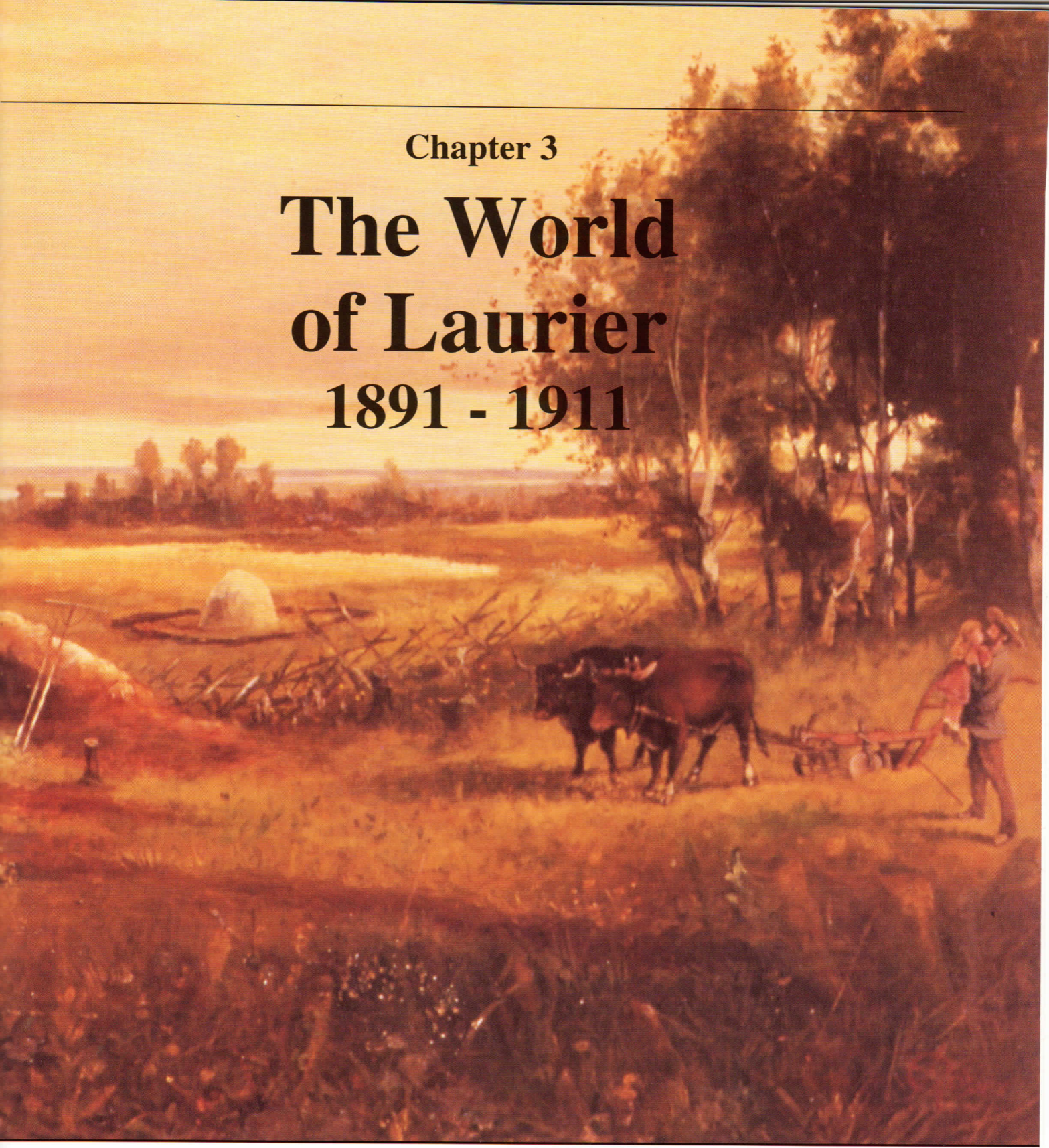
Chapter 2

The Age of Macdonald 1867 - 1891

- 75 Governor and council set up for North West Territories
Attempted Reciprocity Treaty with U.S. fails
- 76 Intercolonial Railway completed, Halifax-Quebec
- 78 Federal election victory for Macdonald over Mackenzie
- 79 National Policy of protective tariff initiated
- 81 New CPR charter awarded to Montreal-centred financial group
- 84 CPR reaches Calgary, and into Rockies
- 85 Louis Riel called on to lead restive Saskatchewan Métis
North West Rebellion or Métis and Indians is put down by Canadian forces
- Rebel leader Riel is hanged at Regina
- “Last spike” of CPR driven in BC mountains
- 86 Vancouver incorporated as city
Liberal W.S. Fielding leads Nova Scotian discontent with Confederation
- 87 *Parti Nationale* under Honoré Mercier elected in Quebec
First Interprovincial Conference meets in Quebec
- Federal election victory for Macdonald
- Wilfred Laurier replaces Edward Blake as federal Liberal leader
- 88 North West Territories granted elective assembly
- 90 Manitoba premier Thomas Greenway discontinues public funding for Manitoba Catholic schools
- 91 Macdonald defeats Laurier in federal election, but dies shortly after

Chapter 3

The World of Laurier 1891 - 1911



1 Renewed federal election victory for Laurier

2 Peace achieved in South Africa

3 Alaskan Boundary Dispute between Canada and US

4 Grand Trunk Pacific and National Transcontinental Railways inaugurated

5 Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta erected

Silver rush in Cobalt, Ontario

6 Federal government opens remaining prairie land to free homesteading

Laurier's fourth (and last) federal election victory

Gold discoveries in Porcupine area, Ontario

Imperial Naval Conference in London

U.S. proposes reciprocal trade agreement with Canada

Canadian Council of Agriculture, set up by farm interests, seeks freer trade

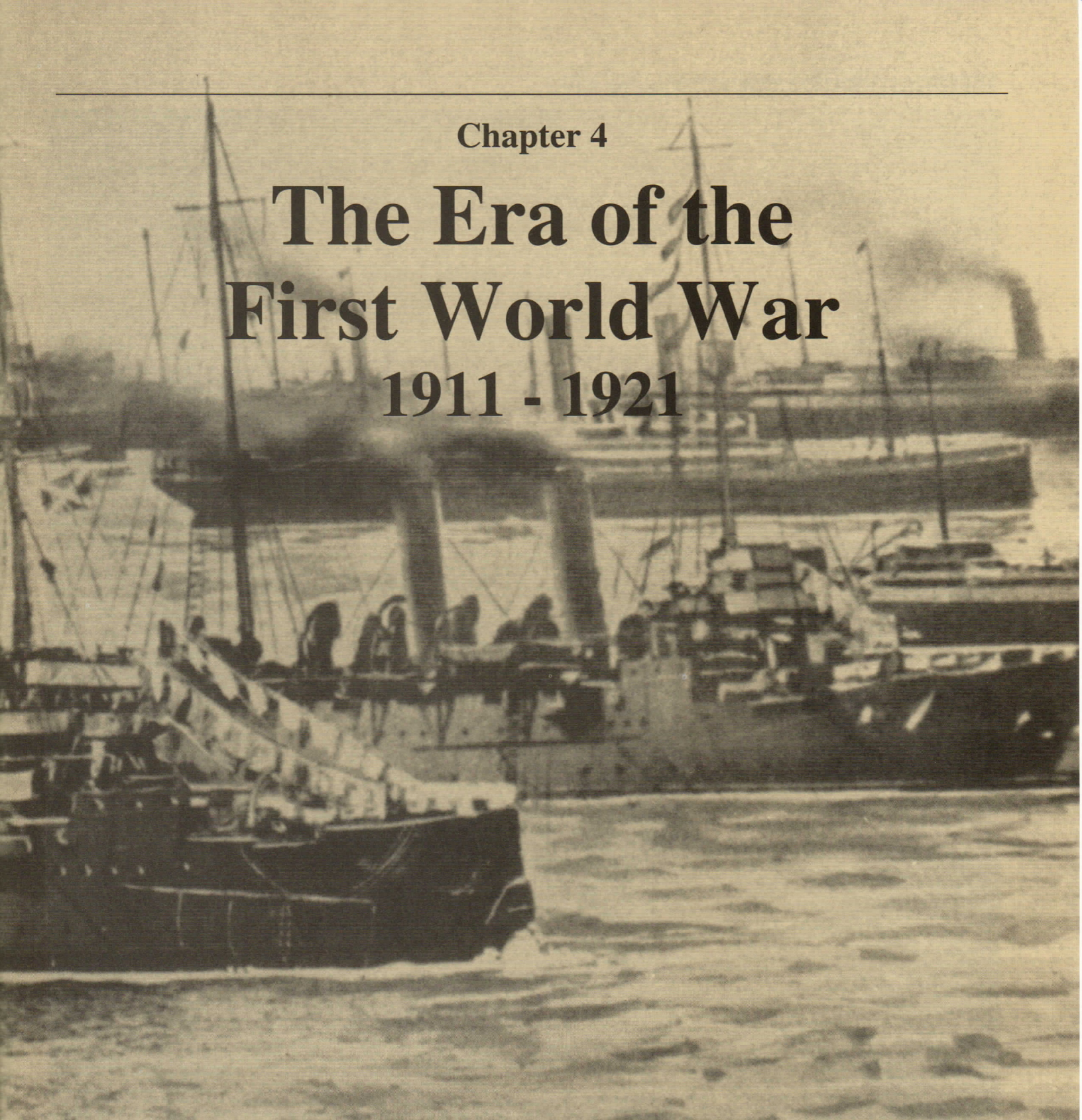
Naval Service Act founds Canada's navy

Robert Borden defeats Laurier in federal election, mainly over reciprocity

Population of Canada: 7 million

Chapter 4

The Era of the First World War 1911 - 1921



- 7 Canadians capture Vimy Ridge in France
- Royal Flying Corps training schools in Canada
- British Columbia and Ontario grant women provincial vote
- At Imperial War Conference in London, Borden presses Canada's role and rights
- 8 Canada's Hundred Days of advances till war's end in November
- Conscription brings violence in Quebec
- Canada grants federal right to vote to all women
- 9 World Peace Conference in Versailles
- League of Nations formed; Canada has its own seat separate from Britain
- Canadian National Railways system set up

Chapter 5

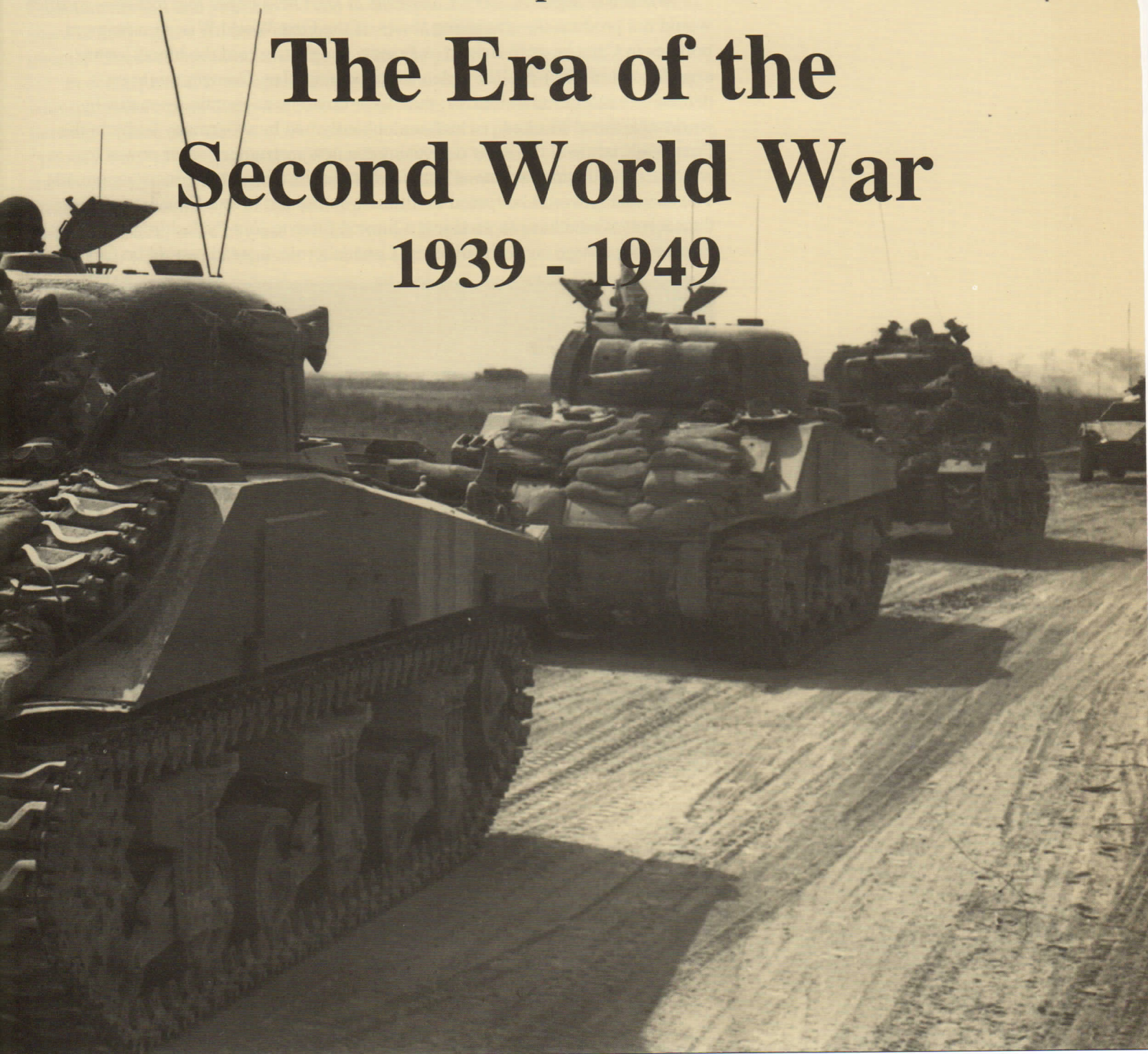
Prosperity, Depression and Mackenzie King 1921 - 1939



- 0 Natural Resources Act gives western provinces control of their own lands and resources
- 1 Federal election victory for Richard Bennett, now leader of Conservatives
- 1 Statute of Westminster legally sets out full national status for Canada
- 2 Japan invades Manchuria
- 2 C.C.F. formed as a democratic socialist party
- 4 Bankrupt Newfoundland legislature suspended and replaced by a Great Britain-appointed Commission Government
- 5 "On to Ottawa Trek" of western protesters against Bennett's failure to solve Depression
- 5 *Union Nationale* formed in Quebec
- 6 Renewal of Wheat Board to market grain abroad
- 6 King and Liberals re-elected
- 6 Italy invades Ethiopia
- 6 Germany re-occupies Rhineland
- 7 Major strike at General Motors Oshawa plant
- 8 Re-armament boom spreads
- 8 Germany invades Czechoslovakia
- 9 Germany invades and annexes Austria
- 9 Germany attacks Poland
- 9 Canada declares war on Germany

Chapter 6

The Era of the Second World War 1939 - 1949



Canadians join in Allied D-day attack on Normandy beaches

Wartime Labour Relations Board established

Conscription enacted

Family allowances established

5 Victory in Europe, May

Victory in Japan, August

King again re-elected in wartime vote

5 Gouzenko case — Russian spy ring in Ottawa

United Nations established, with Canada as member

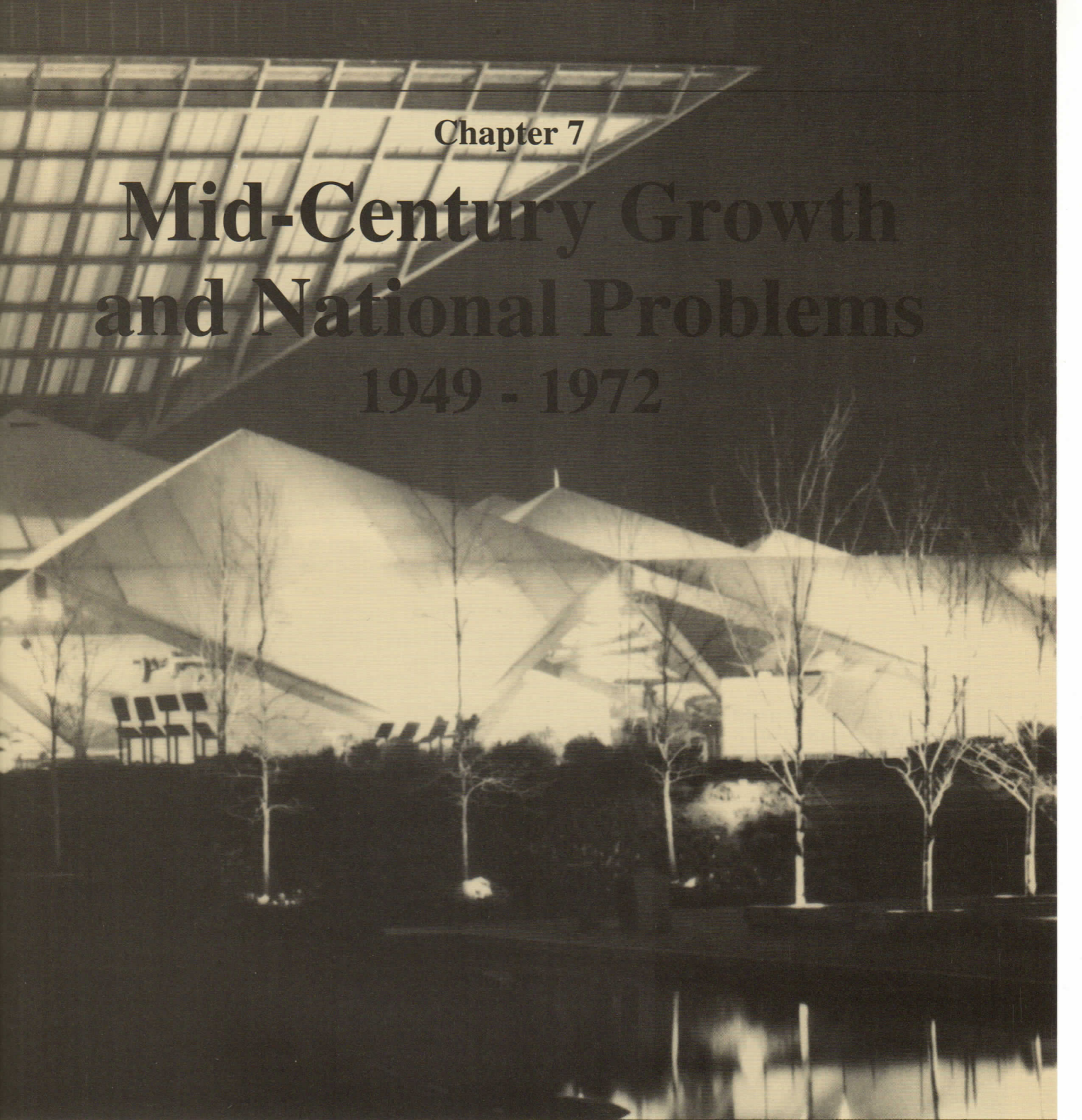
7 Start of production at Leduc oil field, Alberta

9 Entry of Newfoundland into Confederation

NATO established, with Canada as member

Chapter 7

Mid-Century Growth and National Problems 1949 - 1972

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- 57 Conservative John Diefenbaker wins federal election
- Diefenbaker accepts NORAD, joint US-Canada air defence agreement
- 58 Sweeping new election victory for Diefenbaker
- 59 St. Lawrence Seaway opened
- Conservative cabinet abandons Canada's Avro Arrow
- 60 Diefenbaker's favoured project, a Bill of Rights, passed
- 62 Diefenbaker narrowly re-elected
- 63 Lester Pearson and Liberals win power
- 65 Pearson re-elected, but in close vote
- New Canadian flag adopted
- 67 Expo 67 held at Montreal
- 68 Pearson retires and is succeeded by Pierre Trudeau
- Trudeau sweepingly wins election
- 69 Official Languages Act passed
- 70 October Crisis in Quebec, over FLQ terrorism
- 72 Trudeau returned to office, but with a minority government



Chapter 8

Issues of the Nearest Age from 1972

1 Hemlo goldfield opened in northern Ontario

2 Constitution Act passed, and Charter of Rights with it

4 Trudeau retires and is succeeded by John Turner

Federal election triumph by Brian Mulroney brings Conservatives to power

6 Vancouver hosts Expo 86

7 Meech Lake constitutional talks initially produce Meech Lake Accord, but it is rejected

8 Free Trade agreement pushed by Mulroney is signed with US

2 Charlottetown Accord to replace Meech is signed by leaders, but defeated by popular referendum

3 Mulroney resigns and is succeeded by Kim Campbell

Federal election victory for Jean Chrétien returns Liberals to power

Chapter 9

Partners in Progress

Piet J. Koene

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|
| A.B.C. Recycling Ltd. | 322 | Memorial University of Newfoundland | 391 |
| Alcan Aluminium Limited | 323 | Merck Frosst Canada Inc. | 392 |
| Alliance Forest Products Inc. | 324 | Merit Investment Corporation | 394 |
| American Eco Corporation | 325 | The Michencr Institute for Applied Health Sciences | 395 |
| Apollo Microwaves Ltd. | 326 | Miramar Mining Corporation | 396 |
| BDO Dunwoody | 327 | Mining Association of British Columbia | |
| Bell Canada | 328 | - Education Program | 398 |
| Beta Well Service Inc. | 330 | Motor Coach Industries | 399 |
| Braich Group of Companies | 331 | Mobil Oil Canada | 400 |
| BioChem Pharma | 334 | New Vista Society | 402 |
| British Columbia Ferry Corporation | 336 | O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc. | 403 |
| Canada Trade Group Inc. | 337 | Pengrowth Management Limited | 404 |
| Canadian Stevedoring Company Limited | 338 | Pinkerton's of Canada Limited | 405 |
| The Canadian Wheat Board | 339 | Placer Dome Inc. | 406 |
| The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants | 340 | Planmatics Inc. | 407 |
| Clayburn Industries Ltd. | 343 | Proceco Ltd. | 408 |
| Canadian National | 344 | Recochem Inc. | 409 |
| Cancom | 346 | Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Canada Inc. | 410 |
| CGA Canada | 348 | The Rehabilitation Institute of Toronto | 412 |
| CN Tower | 350 | Royal Columbian Hospital | 413 |
| Coopers & Lybrand | 351 | Rougier Inc. | 414 |
| Commercial Union Assurance Company of Canada | | Institut Rosell Inc. | 415 |
| Computalog Ltd. | 352 | Royal Insurance Company of Canada | 416 |
| Cotter Canada | 354 | Seaboard Shipping Company Limited | 417 |
| Crane Canada Inc. | 356 | Southern Alberta Institute of Technology | 418 |
| Créations Joseph Ribkoff International | 357 | Surrey Place Centre | 419 |
| David Kirsch Forwarders Ltd. | 358 | Stikeman, Elliott | 420 |
| E.B. Horsman & Son | 360 | Teck Corporation | 422 |
| Footprint Software Inc. | 362 | Thorburn Equipment Inc. | 424 |
| Frank W. Horner Inc. | 364 | Tremco Ltd. | 426 |
| GE HARRIS Energy Control Systems Canada, Inc. | 365 | Tri-Tex Co. Inc. | 428 |
| Gilbert Laustsen Jung Associates Ltd. | 366 | Truefoam Limited | 430 |
| GO Transit | 367 | United Distillers Canada Inc. | 431 |
| Goodman and Carr | 368 | Unican Security Systems, Ltd. | 432 |
| Gulf Canada Resources Limited | 370 | Université de Montréal | 434 |
| Gusdorf Canada Ltd. | 372 | University of Calgary | 435 |
| Hospitality Corporation Of Manitoba Inc. | 374 | The University of Manitoba | 436 |
| IEC-Holden Inc. | 375 | University of Victoria | 437 |
| Industrial Equipment Co. Ltd. | 376 | The University of Winnipeg | 438 |
| International Correspondence Schools | 377 | Utex Corporation | 439 |
| I.S.B. Ltée/Ltd. | 378 | Vancouver Hospital & Health Sciences Centre | 440 |
| Kelly Services (Canada), Ltd. | 379 | Vancouver Island Helicopters Ltd. | 442 |
| Lions Gate Hospital | 380 | Les Vêtements Made-to-Fit Inc. | 443 |
| The Loewen Group Inc. | 381 | Vogue Pool Products | 444 |
| Loram Companies | 382 | The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company | 445 |
| Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. | 384 | WALTER & SCI Construction | 446 |
| Manitoba Hydro | 387 | Weider Nutrition Co. Ltd. | 448 |
| Maritime Paper Products Limited | 388 | Wilson Auto Electric Limited | 450 |
| MBS Bearing Service Inc. | 389 | Winnipeg Free Press | 452 |
| | 390 | Wong Wing Foods Inc. | 453 |

Alcan Aluminium Limited

Aluminum is found virtually everywhere in modern society. Its unique physical properties, such as high strength-to-weight ratio, barrier qualities, versatility and formability, make it an ideal material for many product designs. Moreover, as one of the most recyclable of materials, aluminum is usable over and over again without any loss in quality.

Alcan Aluminium Limited, headquartered in Montreal, is parent to a worldwide group of companies involved in all aspects of the aluminum industry. Through subsidiaries and related companies, Alcan's global activities include bauxite mining, alumina refining, power generation, aluminum smelting, manufacturing and recycling.

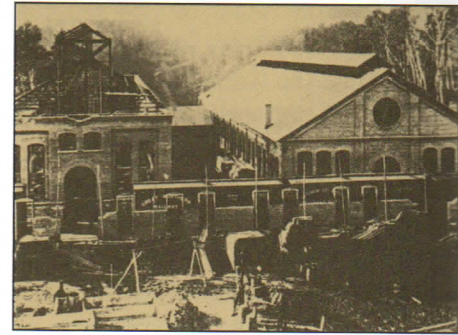
In the 95 years since it was established, Alcan has developed a unique combination of competitive strengths, with owned hydroelectricity in Canada, proprietary process technology and international presence. The Alcan Group is a multicultural and multilingual enterprise reflecting the differing corporate and social characteristics of over 30 countries in which it operates. Today Alcan employs approximately 33,000 people and is a global producer and marketer of flat-rolled aluminum products in the world.

The history of Alcan begins in Shawinigan, Quebec, where hydroelectric power facilities had earlier been developed. The first primary aluminum was produced in 1901 in Canada by the company, then a subsidiary of Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa), itself a pioneer producer of aluminum. The Canadian operations were incorporated in 1902 as Northern Aluminum Company, but in 1925, its name was changed to Aluminum Company of

After becoming an independent entity in 1928, over the next decade the company pursued its goal of developing aluminum fabricating activities in Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe that could provide outlets for the aluminum ingots from its Canadian smelters. During the Second World War, with unprecedented demand for aluminum, smelter production increased five-fold, and fabricating plants were rapidly built in Canada and the United Kingdom.

As demand continued to grow in the post-war period, new hydroelectric and smelting projects were initiated in Quebec and in British Columbia. Alcan's fabricating capacity expanded to many countries, including the United States. During the 1970s, smelting operations and bauxite mining sites were begun in Australia, Europe, South America, Africa and the Caribbean.

Pursuant to a reorganisation in 1987, the Company changed its name to Alcan Aluminium Limited. In the early 1990s, Alcan began an intensive study of the world aluminum outlook and its own competitive position. As a result, through a process of reviewing corporate priorities and organizational structures, many non-strategic

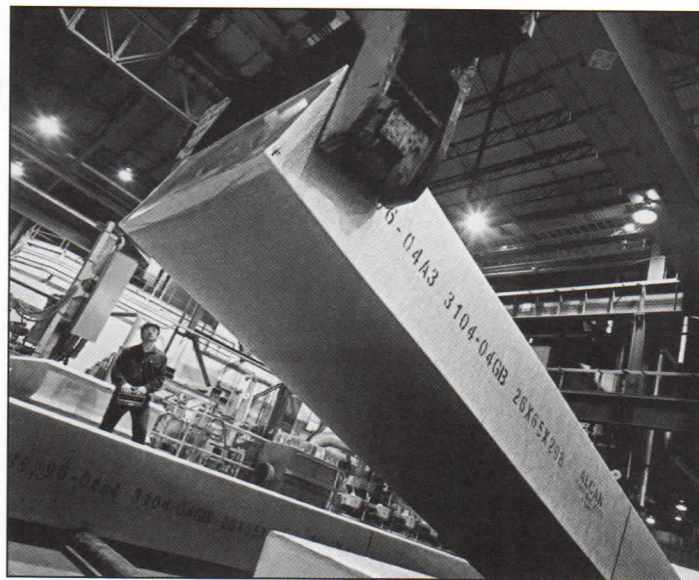


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downstream businesses were sold. Alcan has emerged as a more focused organization, with its investment and its research and development programs concentrated on core processes and products.

Committed to a process of continual environmental improvement, Alcan has made remarkable strides in minimizing the impact of its operations on the environment. Air emissions, water effluents, resource management and waste reduction are all areas where Alcan has worked to ensure environmental improvement.

As one of the most international aluminum companies in the world, Alcan looks to a promising future, as it continues with its commitment to excellence, striving to meet or surpass customers' needs and solidifying aluminum's position as the material of choice.



1. Alcan's first smelter was built in Shawinigan, Quebec, at the turn of the century.
2. As a result of its on-going commitment to supplying quality sheet ingot as well as recent expansions and upgrades, Alcan is a global producer and marketer of rolled aluminum products.

BDO Dunwoody

As one of Canada's foremost accounting and consulting firms, BDO Dunwoody is committed to helping independent businesses succeed. With 74 offices and 264 partners located across Canada, its personalized approach to services has been a consistent theme throughout its diverse corporate background.

The history of BDO Dunwoody is rather unique, comprised of the biographies and mergers of several independent Canadian firms — principally, Dunwoody & Company and BDO Ward Mallette — each dedicated to serving the entrepreneurial market while sharing many common philosophies and valuing their Canadian origins.

The oldest of the founding partners, Dunwoody & Company, traces its origins to James M. Dunwoody, who opened the firm's first office in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1921. His loyalty to clients, a trait he became known for, evolved into an important service philosophy which has been practised throughout the company's history, and resulted in significant growth.

By the mid 1960s, Dunwoody & Company was emerging as a truly national firm, with 23 partners and 163 employees located in 11 offices throughout Canada. Furthermore, this domestic growth was matched by international expansion as well, with multinational connections that extended its services to 60 countries. From this solid base, Dunwoody & Company continued to grow, both internally, through the opening of additional offices, and externally, through mergers with other established firms.

The other main founding partner, BDO Ward Mallette, began in 1951 as a single office in

H. Ward. As new partnerships were formed, in 1960 this Ontario-wide firm adopted the name G.H. Ward & Partners. In 1973 a three-way merger of regional accounting firms was achieved, including Groupe Mallette of Quebec and a British Columbia firm, to form a new national firm, Ward Mallette.

Throughout the 1980s Ward Mallette grew steadily, and in 1988, as part of the international BDO Binder, it became known as BDO Ward Mallette. By 1991, the firm, now Canada's seventh largest accounting entity, was located in five provinces — British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario — with a professional staff of over 1,500, including more than 200 partners.

In 1991 BDO Ward Mallette and Dunwoody & Company merged to form BDO Dunwoody, a

strong and united player in Canada's accounting and financial consulting industry with its head offices in downtown Toronto. Through the firm's international affiliate, BDO Binder, with 1,572 partners and 13,000 staff members worldwide, BDO Dunwoody is able to secure professional expertise in more than 70 countries.

In Canada, BDO Dunwoody provides a full complement of services to the business and financial communities, including auditing, bookkeeping and accounting, corporate and personal taxation, corporate finance and planning, corporate recovery and insolvency, litigation support and investigations, forensic accounting, business valuations, information technology consulting, management consulting, arbitration and mediation services, and

mergers, acquisitions and divestitures consulting.

For over 75 years, BDO Dunwoody has worked from its strategic basis of service-oriented and client-centred traditions established by its founding partners. Today, as it approaches an ever-stronger future, the firm remains dedicated to working with Canadians as it continues to understand and meet the unique accounting and financial consulting needs of Canadian business and industry.



The head office of BDO Dunwoody is located in the Royal Bank Plaza in the heart of Toronto's financial

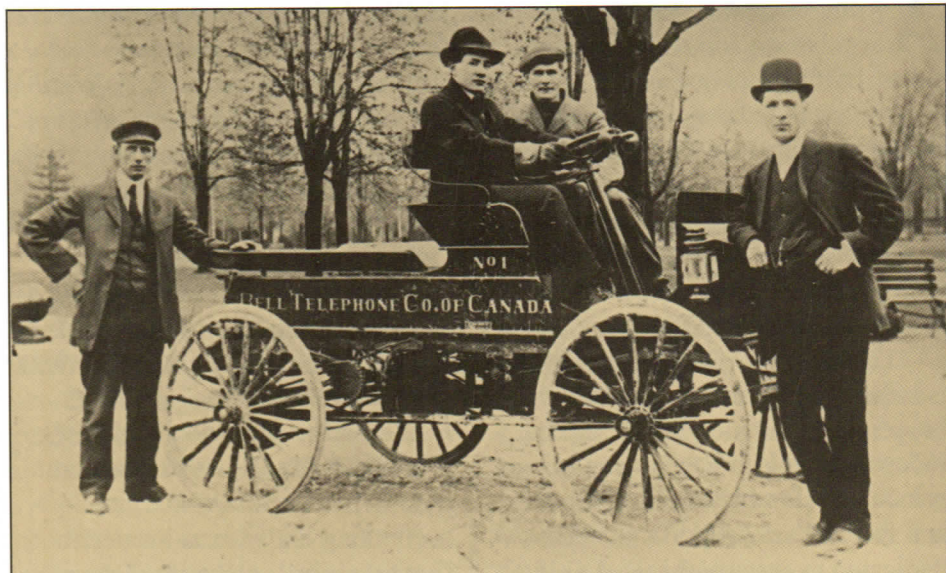
Bell Canada

For more than 115 years, Bell Canada has been a vital part of the national landscape. Just as roads and railways have linked communities across the country, Bell has brought Canadians together through a growing network of telecommunications lines and switches along with voice, data and image services. Today, as a key architect and builder of Canada's "information highway," Bell continues to play a leading role in the country's development.

With over 7,000,000 customers across Ontario and Quebec, and more than 40,000 employees, Bell is a major economic contributor to Canada in terms of employment, capital spending, research and development, and product and service development. It has also created new companies, such as its software development arm, MediaLinx, to focus on new areas of business, while forging alliances and partnerships with others — MCI, British Telecom and IBM, to name but a few — to deliver total solutions to customers.

Furthermore, Bell is part of the Bell Canada Enterprises (BCE) family, which includes Nortel, Teleglobe, Telesat and others. Together, these companies offer a unique breadth of expertise, including research and development, marketing, customer services, content, applications, and sophisticated network capabilities, that range from digital fibre optics to overseas links and satellites.

Bell values the communities it serves and strives to contribute to their growth and prosperity. Through its corporate citizenship initiatives, Bell seeks to contribute to the well-being of these communities and to maintain its presence as a model corporate citizen. In selecting the programs and organizations to which it



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importance to technology, youth and education — our future.

Bell Canada began life in 1880, six years after Alexander Graham Bell's historic long distance call from Brantford to Paris, Ontario. At the end of its first year, the company had telephone exchanges in 13 cities, 2,100 phones in service, 150 employees, and its stock was "selling quietly among good people." Telephone technology was basic: customers turned a crank to signal to the operator that they wanted to make a call.

In the following decades, service steadily expanded and was streamlined to offer improvements,

1. The "Auto Car", 1909. The Bell Telephone Company avails itself of modern apparatus in the maintenance and operation of its plant. Its motor vehicle commends itself to the demands of telephone service, which in emergency requires ever-ready and speedy means of transportation for men and materials for long and short distances.

2. The first multiple switchboard in Montreal was installed in the British Empire Assurance Company Building at the corner of St. François Xavier and Notre-Dame Streets on April 17, 1886. The multiple permitted an operator to reach any subscriber's line in the exchange without having to trunk the call to another operator.



Braich Group of Companies

With its strong Canadian roots having enabled yet stronger international growth, the Braich Group of Companies is a well-diversified conglomerate headquartered in Mission, British Columbia. Comprised of more than 25 separate entities, the Braich Group originally began with forest-based industries.

More than ever in today's business environment, opportunities transcend geographic borders; and, because world markets have historically played a major role in the success of the forest-based companies in the Braich Group, the Group as a whole is in the midst of fostering new alliances and opportunities in the global marketplace.

The Braich Group of Companies traces its history to a single person, Herman Singh, who was born in the Village of Barach in northern India. Immigrating to Canada at the age of 16 in 1927, he settled in New Westminster, British Columbia. But, after a number of other Herman Singhs followed in the area, he assumed the last name Braich, the Anglicized version of his village name.

Before long, he began earning a living with an old wood truck, selling coal and cordwood fuel to local housewives in the greater Victoria region. Returning twice to India to help on the family farm for extended periods, he also invested money in his village, while importing equipment from around the world to raise the standards of farming in Barach and environs.

During the late 1930s and 1940s, Braich became involved with the trading of lumber and logs in British Columbia, and soon was one of the largest lumber and log brokers in the province.

Building at the corner of Main and Hastings Streets in Vancouver, Herman Lumber and Log Sales became one of several interrelated companies.

As a natural step from the trading of the commodities, the Braich companies began logging and sawmilling, and in 1951 incorporated Herman Sawmill Ltd., while acquiring the assets of Bridge Lumber Co. in Mission, British Columbia. By 1956 this particular small sawmill was expanded in order to enable it to cut 40-foot timbers, one of the few sawmills in North America with this capability.

In 1960 the Mill built a lumber-barge loading facility on industrial property located adjacent to the Mill site. Four years later, the sawmill operation was further expanded and continued to be one of the most efficient sawmills in North America throughout this period, until 1967 when fire destroyed the Mill. Unfortunately, because of the exceptionally cold weather, sprinkler systems did not deploy due to freezing in the Fraser River around the sprinkler intake pumps.



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1. Herman Singh Braich (1911-1976), who founded the Braich Group of Companies.
2. An early member of the Braich Group of Companies, Herman Sawmill Ltd. was incorporated in 1951

Always interested in helping family and acquaintances in India, Herman Sawmill Ltd. and its associated and affiliated companies had sponsored many individuals from Northern India through the years, providing each with a job and also living quarters in the company bunkhouse. Many of these immigrants have gone on to become successful entrepreneurs in their own right in the forest or farming industries — the majority



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

of the raspberry, strawberry and blueberry farms in the Lower Mainland are owned by these immigrants or their descendants.

The loss of the sawmill in 1967 became a turning point for the founder to diversify into other businesses throughout North America, and to spend increasingly more time breeding and racing thoroughbred horses. As a result, several horses owned or bred by the Braich family's Empire Farms have won numerous prestigious events across Canada and the United States.

In 1976 the Group's founder, Herman Singh Braich, passed away from a massive heart attack. After his death, his eldest son, Erwin Singh Braich, at the age of 20, assumed control over the family business after leaving Simon Fraser University.

Under his leadership the predominantly forest industry operations grew to become one of the largest independent exporters of timber and timber products from British Columbia in the late 1980s, through the expansion of original family operations and the purchase of additional forest product operations. One of these companies, Raro Trading Enterprises, developed a method for harvesting previously-logged cypress stumps and then exporting manufactured 76-inch rough sawn cants to Japan where they were in great demand and auctioned to the highest bidder.

Erwin Braich recalls, "We would go into areas that had been logged years before and, since cypress doesn't rot quickly, we would pull up stumps and take what was otherwise a waste product and make it into a highly desirable item for the Japanese market."

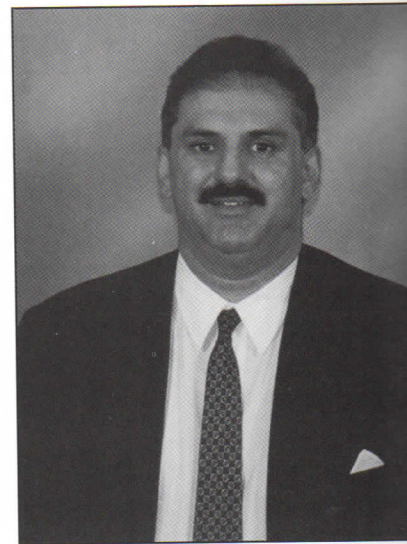
As Braich was embroiled in a divorce litigation including a three-year child custody dispute, it wasn't until 1996 that the Braich Group embarked on the

commodities trading corporation. Quickly becoming a success, in its first fiscal year it reached approximately one billion dollars in sales volume, primarily dealing in sulfur, sugar, scrap metals, vegetable oils, and various fertilizers.

Another newly formed division is a joint venture with the city of Moscow, whereby a Braich Group company, along with two partners, will send 20,000 taxis to Moscow, and will also include the development of various ancillary businesses such as car-washes, service stations, and spare parts depots.

The Braich Group has also been actively working towards an opportunity to participate in a pilot project for a communications system and various security, fire and alarm systems for use in Wuhan, China, a city of 8 million people. Designed to implement fully-integrated wireless services in several areas, it will include fire and burglary monitoring, a global positioning system for remote control vehicle and equipment monitoring, and an intrusion alarm combined with closed circuit television monitoring. The initial scope will be to provide service to approximately 30,000 commercial customers in the pilot program and then subsequently to the entire city. Similar systems for other Asian countries are also being explored.

Another major international business venture for the Braich Group has been to research technology to safeguard intellectual property by way of global fraud control and authentication technology. This technology, once licensed, will revolutionize the smart card and the use of all magnetic coded striped cards. Multiple applications of this technology include Internet commercial uses, fraud elimination in cellular telephone usage, and confidentiality in personal



Erwin Singh Braich, son of the founder and Chief Executive Officer since 1996

Braich Group is already the major shareholder in the company headed by the inventor of this technology.

Today, the Braich Group of Companies has come to play an important role in several diverse sectors, including real estate, food products, international finance, commodities trading, and high-technology and communication.

Its real estate holdings include core urban development and large tracts of undeveloped industrial and residential properties throughout North America and, more recently, in foreign countries.

Forest products, although not a great percentage of the overall holdings as previously, still play an important role. Having exported lumber and timber products to over 50 countries, the Group has pioneered new environmentally friendly harvesting methods. Involved in both softwood and hardwood, recent offshore diversifications include a hardwood chipping operation in Chile.

The Group has also recently sent teams of experts into Ghana, West Africa, and Venezuela in South America to investigate tropical and hardwood forests with a view to investing in these

The Group's international finance sector has been targeted to become a full-service financial group, which will include the formulation of an offshore banking corporation.

Although historically the Braich Group has stayed away from the high-technology and communications industries, it is now recognized that this quickly changing sector is also filled with opportunities. "This is a new field for us and entry into this market will be a careful process," Braich emphasizes, "but, potential growth in this area could be huge."

Currently, development and operation of a U.S. \$400 million ammonia and fertilizer plant has been awarded to the Group by the government of Azerbaijan. Also, in the Commodities Trading Division, integration is being sought by the acquisition of a similar chemical manufacturer in Bulgaria. This factory, known as Chimco-Vratsa, employs 2,200 people and is the largest in that country. Stellar Global Corporation has just tendered a high bid of \$217 million U.S. for a controlling interest in this factory.

Recently discussions have been held with parties from the Persian Gulf wherein the Group would joint-venture in the relocation of an oil refinery from New York to the United Arab Emirates. Braich comments, "Our option on this small refinery expires later this year. My biggest task is to assemble a competent management team in a new field for us."

Retaining close ties to the town where he grew up and to British Columbia's Indo-Canadian community, Erwin Braich was named Citizen of the Year in his hometown of Mission, British Columbia in 1997. Another personal highlight was the recent personal invitation to a meeting with United States Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin,

international conglomerates. Braich explains, "It was to discuss various ways to improve the Russian standard of living, and to enhance and aid the emerging free enterprise system in Russia."

The Braich Group has had a long tradition of being a very involved corporate citizen wherever it operates, emphasizing the spirit of cooperation and goodwill in its undertakings. Thus, social programs, particularly those with a cross-cultural flavour, along with athletic facilities have been recipients of the Group's generosity.

The Group has been closely involved with the rebuilding of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame at B.C. Place Stadium in Vancouver, which includes the Erwin Singh Braich Special Exhibits Gallery. Other athletic facilities in Mission include the Sports Park, the Aquatic Centre, and the new sports complex at the University College of the Fraser Valley — named the Erwin S. Braich Sports Complex — which includes two gymnasiums and is home to the Canadian Women's Junior College Basketball Runner-up Team.

Another personal goal of Erwin Braich has been to establish a 150-bed care home for Indo-Canadians who need care outside of their family home, and he continues to work in conjunction

with the provincial Ministry of Health for this intermediate care facility. Erwin Braich, and his family, have also made a major contribution to the building of the Sikh Temple in Mission, including donating the land and one-third of its construction costs. Donating the entire cost of construction of an elementary and secondary school, focussing on the Sikh culture and heritage, yet conforming to Provincial Education Ministry standards, is now being planned.

As a family-owned company with few layers of management, the Group is able to make quick decisions when needed. As such, the Group's management has always been, and will continue to be, focussed and streamlined. This has ensured that the Group can react rapidly to emerging trends in existing ventures and also to the opportunities for new and particularly innovative endeavours. It is precisely this flexibility and ability to act promptly that has been so much the hallmark of success of the Braich Group of Companies, and will afford it further achievements in the future.

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