



VOLUME FIVE

CONFEDERATION

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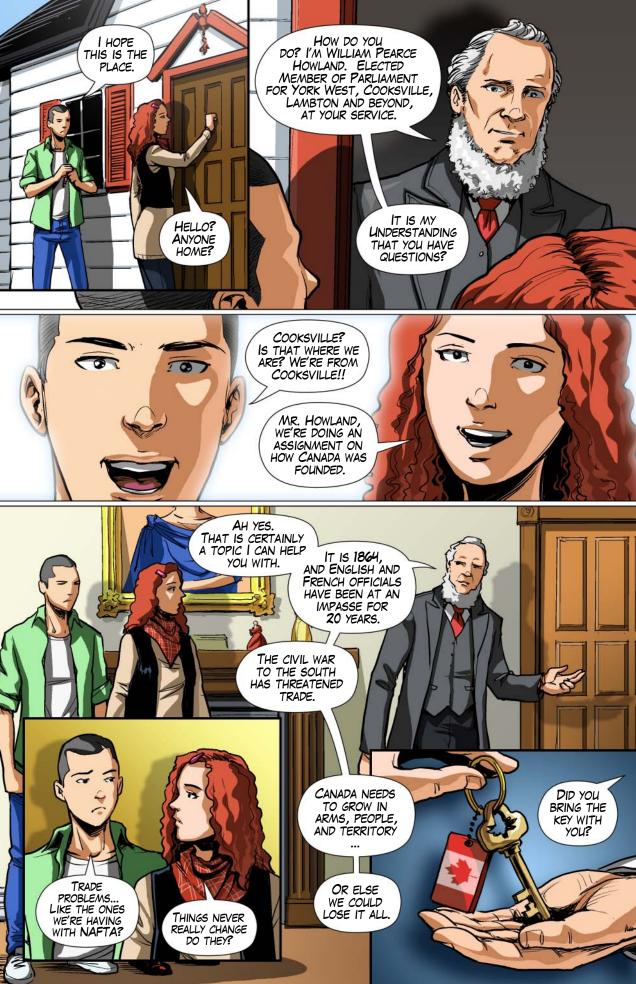




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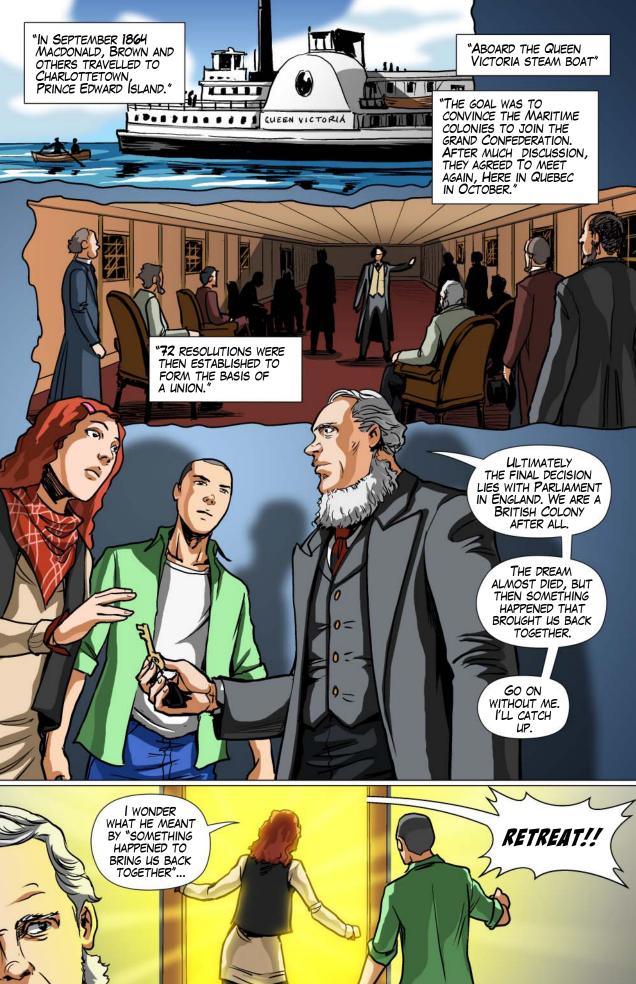






















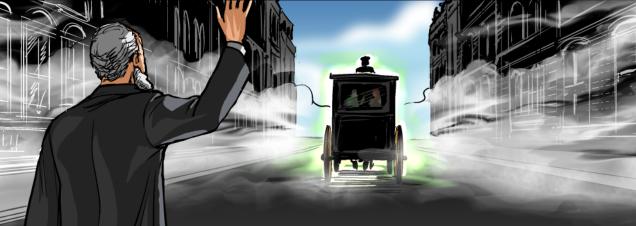














the Dominion of Canada By DAICHI & CHARLOTTE Confederation 1867

The Dominion of Canada was not born out of a revolution, but came to be through a series of conferences and negotiations, culminating in Confederation on July 1, 1867.

The idea of a union between the Province of Canada (made up of Canada East and Canada West) and the Maritime colonies of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island had gained momentum in the early 1860s. Contributing to the push towards a union was the American Civil War, the emerging threat of a Fenian invasion of Canada, and the perceived lack of concern by the British Crown for affairs in British North America. By 1864 the idea of Confederation had become an effective solution to a security issue that was brewing in the United States.

Initially opposing the idea of Confederation was the Reformer George Brown. The Reformers proposed, instead, a separation

of the Province of Canada into the separate entities of Canada East (Quebec) and Canada West (Ontario). Throughout the early 1860s, the Reformers actively campaigned against the Conservatives, who were led by John A. Macdonald and George Etienne Cartier, and at times seemed to be winning the push against Confederation. Once bitter adversaries, Macdonald, Cartier and Brown joined in a great coalition government in 1864 with the specific aim of uniting British North America in a grand Confederation.

The next step in the Confederation plan was to convince the Maritime colonies to join with the Province of Canada. In August of 1864, delegates from the Province of Canada travelled to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to participate in a conference that was initially held to discuss the union of the Maritimes. The Charlottetown Conference marked the first step in the journey toward Confederation.



After Charlottetown, the delegates agreed to meet within the year. This led to the Quebec Conference in October of 1864. The central topics of the Quebec Conference were national security, railways, foreign relations, and expansion into the North-West. 72 resolutions were drafted that would form the basis of Confederation.

A number of challenges to Confederation occurred after 1864, including elections in the Maritimes, a wavering of support for a Federal union, and the withdrawal of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island from discussions. Together these almost stalled the movement towards Confederation. However the Fenian Raids of 1866 and the question of security once again brought the parties together. The London Conference in England in December of 1866 saw the delegates from British North America make a final push for unification.

On February 11, 1867 the delegates completed their final draft of the British North America Act (later renamed the Constitution Act, 1867). The Act received Royal Assent from Queen Victoria on March 19, 1867 and culminated in Royal Proclamation on July 1, 1867.

Canada as we know it today came to be as more provinces and territories joined Confederation over time: Ontario (1867), Quebec (1867), New Brunswick (1867), Nova Scotia (1867), Manitoba (1870), Northwest Territories (1870), British Columbia (1871), Prince Edward Island (1873), Yukon Territory (1898), Alberta (1905), Saskatchewan (1905), Newfoundland & Labrador (1949) and Nunavut (1999).

William Pearce Howland (1807-1911) was the only American-born Father of Confederation. For a time he lived in Cooksville (now within Mississauga), and represented the area in the years leading up to 1867.

^{2.} William Pearce Howland



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