

Stacey's quick sketches of Mackenzie King as a war-time leader, and of members of his cabinet.

All in all, this is an appropriate and authoritative if not an exhaustive and definitive summary of Canada's first—and as some would have it her last—century.

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George Bowering

It's recess, rough grass ballyard
 where a charade
 these rural kids
 watched by tall young teachers, women
 keep score for Indian softball,

 their, what?
 charges?
 do as expected, miss the ball,
 the girls playing tag
 in the dust, in the grass

In this place no one thinks of
 far edge of prairie.

 I see one teacher on the steps
 of the crude stone building.
 She lifts the bell
 to clang.

The kids line up according to size
 & march in. Recess is over.

 Now they will bend over desks
 as expected,
 frown as expected.

The teachers have nothing to do tonight
 in Oak Lake, Manitoba.

But save their paychecks to buy little second hand cars.