Preface

Of many acknowledgments I should like to make, the first goes to the late W. R. Wright, who was for several years an associate of Gordon in the railway and whose enthusiasm for the man and his story was a great factor in enlisted support for the book. It is a matter of regret to all concerned that Dick Wright's untimely death, just as the work was getting under way, prevented him from carrying out much of the research and interviewing he proposed to do in support of the writing. What he had done, in the form of several taped interviews, was made available through the kindness of Brian Philcox of Ottawa, Wright's literary executor.

To Donald Sutherland, director of McGill-Queen's University Press, and to Dr. Dale Thomson of McGill, R. M. Fowler, director of the C. D. Howe Research Institute, and Professor F. W. Gibson of Queen's who composed the editorial committee, I offer my thanks not only for cooperation but for an occasional suspension of critical judgment where they disagreed with my treatment of subjects or choice of incident. That lenity I may perhaps come to regret; but the faults of the book are my own.

I am grateful to Queen's University and the University Archivist for access to the Gordon Papers, which were a principal source of reference. The Bank of Nova Scotia, the Bank of Canada and the Canadian National Railways have all been most cooperative in assisting research in their archives. The Public Archives of Canada has been, as always, a source of unstinting help. In acquiring a general understanding of the work of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board I have been much indebted to Dr. Pauline Jewett's thesis, 'The Wartime Prices and Trade Board: A Case Study in Canadian Public Administration'. For the chapter on Gordon's time with Brinco I found a rich and clear background in Philip Smith's *Brinco: The Story of Churchill Falls*.
These and other published sources and official papers will be found referred to in the notes. Beyond that it will be evident to any reader how much I have depended on the sixty or more relatives and friends of Gordon who were kind enough to grant me interviews and answer innumerable questions. I have to thank Mrs. Gordon herself for several interviews, for access to private papers and photographs and for courtesy and cooperation in every respect. Other members of the family have not only been equally accommodating; they have also been equally frank in revealing the man as he was, 'warts and all'. Among the friends and associates who contributed their reminiscences I have particularly warm memories of J. Ross Tolmie, Q.C., of Ottawa, who went to the trouble of assembling half a dozen distinguished members of the Five Lakes Fishing Club at the club itself for a long joint interview which occupied much of a weekend and provided a mine of valuable information.

There were, of course, among those interviewed some who had fought with Gordon on various lively occasions and some who saw his faults in larger perspective than others. What has emerged for me, out of all the interviews and the whole range of the research, is a very large figure rich in interest as a fallible human being and deserving of being remembered as a significant force in the country. I hope some of that image is conveyed.

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Joseph Schull