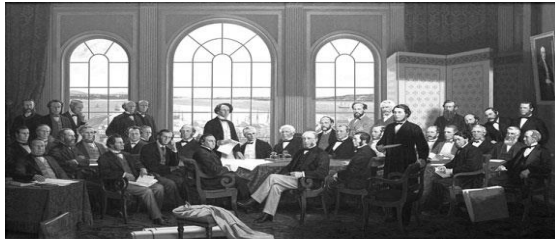


Cluster 2 – Chapter 5

The North-West Changes



the Bay



Fur Trade and Settlement Rivalries – p. 144-145**Word Bank**North West Company (NWC)
coureurs de bois

portages

Ininew (Cree)
beaver

- The fur trade was one of the most important industries of the North American continent.
- This was brought on by the European demand for fur, especially the _____, which was used in the manufacture of felt hats.



- The fur trade pushed the _____ and the Hudson's Bay Company to explore deeper into the western part of North America.
- The French traders expanded around the Great Lakes and relied on Wendat (Huron) allies; the HBC expanded into the Hudson's Bay drainage basin. They relied on the _____, as partners.
- The various fur trade rivalries led to several Scottish merchants in Montreal founding the _____ in 1779.
- 1790-91: Simon McTavish of the NWC lobbied the British government to end

the HBC monopoly in Rupert's Land. The British government's refusal intensified the HBC-NWC rivalry.

- NWC kept moving further into the west.
- The voyageurs involved in the fur trade had a difficult life, with long days spent paddling and many difficult _____.



- Voyageurs often put in 14-hour days and had to carry two 40 kg (90 lb) bundles of fur at a time during portages.
- Voyageurs developed a culture defined by their canoe travel, French language, style of dress, relations with First Nations and paddling songs.
- The HBC-NWC rivalry at times escalated to violence. They destroyed each other's boats and forts and attempted to offer better trade terms with First Nations.
- The First Nations benefitted from this competition, having to offer fewer and lesser-quality furs in exchange for more trade goods.

The Selkirk Settlement – p. 146-147

<u>Word Bank</u>		
Miles Macdonell	Kildonan	fur trade
Red River Valley	Earl of Selkirk	Chief Peguis

- Thomas Douglas, the Fifth _____ was born in Scotland in 1771.



- He was the seventh son of a wealthy landowner and since he was not the firstborn, he would not inherit the family fortune and so was sent to law school in Edinburgh.
- While at law school, his attention became focused on poor Scottish tenant farmers who had been removed from their land by wealthy landowners.
- Due to the unexpected deaths (over time) of Douglas' father and brothers, he inherited the title of Earl of Selkirk and the family fortune. He used his money and title to help the displaced Scottish farmers.
- His solution was to move the farmers to British North America.
- Douglas asked British government to grant him land in the _____ portion of Rupert's Land controlled by the HBC. The British government refused. Douglas then bought shares in the HBC and gained enough influence to purchase 40 468 hectares of land.
- The land Selkirk purchased came to be known as the Selkirk Concession, or Assiniboia.

- Selkirk hired _____ to bring immigrants into the colony. The Scottish village that served as the point of departure to the new colony was named _____.



- The first group, 36 Scottish and Irish workers arrived in 1812, and for the first two winters had to camp at the HBC post in present-day Pembina, ND, since they were not equipped for the rugged landscape and harsh winters.
- The first group survived due to the assistance of _____ and the Salteaux. The settlement slowly grew as more newcomers came from Scotland and Ireland.



- People who had been living in the Red River before the creation of the Selkirk colony included Metis, Swampy Cree, Salteaux and Canadiens who had made their way from Quebec to St. Boniface. There were also French, Scottish and Orkney men who had stayed in the area after retiring from the HBC. Many stayed

because they had Metis or First Nations wives and children.

- Selkirk’s immigrants were different in that they farmed, but did not take part in the _____ like the Metis. They also did not intermarry with the First Nations people.
- The Selkirk colony would have to establish good relations with the HBC and NWC traders in the area, as well as

the Metis and First Nations people living nearby.

- Many were suspicious of the newcomers. The NWC viewed the Selkirk land grant as an HBC plot to ruin NWC trade in the area. The Selkirk Settlement was located across major river routes that the NWC used to transport pemmican from the Bison-rich prairies to posts in the North.

The Métis at Red River – p. 148-152

<u>Word Bank</u>		
legal definition	pemmican	buffalo jumps
captain/president	Red River Jig	Red River Settlement
Red River Carts	Country-born	Michif

- The _____ was made up of two settlements: one at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers and a smaller settlement near present-day Pembina, ND.
- Many men in the community worked as guides or voyageurs in the fur trade, either for the French, for Montreal-based companies and eventually most worked for the North West Company.
- The Red River Settlement became home to many _____ families, most connected to the HBC.
- The Metis tended to be Roman Catholic and depended on the fur trade and buffalo hunt. The Country-born families tended to be Protestant and relied mostly upon farming, though some hunted and were in the fur trade.
- After 1870, many Country-born families tended to be identified as Metis as well, though the description was broad. Today, the term Metis includes all people with both European and First Nations ancestry and origins in the Northwest.

- The current _____ of Metis involves self-identification as Metis, acceptance by a Metis community and ancestry that can be traced back to an historic Metis community.
- The language of _____ grew as the Metis Nation grew. It is a combination of French and Cree, but has elements of element of English and Anishinabe (Ojibwa/Salteaux). The Country-born Red River Dialect was a variation of Scottish English combined with Orcadian, Gaelic, Cree and Ojibwe. It was mostly lost over successive speakers of English.
- Metis culture was also reflected in music and dance.
- Musical instruments include the fiddle, concertina, harmonica, hand drum, mouth harp and bones or spoons.
- The fiddle was the main instrument, introduced by the Scottish and French.
- The main song associated with the fiddle was the “_____”.



- Traditional Metis dances include waltzes, reels and jigs.
- The jig has its origins in the British Isles. The Red River Jig has origins that can be seen in Quebec and British- Maritime Canadian dances.
- Metis women played a large role in the development of the Metis Nation and fur trade.
- From First Nations heritage, they knew how to make moccasins, prepare _____ and create and repair snowshoes.
- Many women worked for the trading posts to supply these goods.
- During buffalo hunts, Metis women cleaned and tanned hides, collected fat and bone marrow to make pemmican and prepared meat for winter storage.
- Metis women were also known for intricate decorative work on clothing.
- The Metis developed a buffalo hunt that was distinct from First Nations methods.
- The First Nations methods originally had hunters herd buffalo off cliffs (_____) or into corrals (buffalo pounds).
- After acquiring horses, First Nations hunters would ride closer to the herds and hunt with bows and arrows.
- The Metis took this technique and used muzzle-loading rifles instead of bows and arrows. They also hunted larger groups and would ride into the herds, shooting a targeted bison at close range.
- Metis women and children were responsible for skinning and butchering of carcasses.
- The buffalo hunt was very large, requiring hundreds of men, women and children to travel hundreds of kilometres to the buffalo herds.
- At the hunt, tons of meat and hides had to be processed and then transported back to the settlement.
- The buffalo hunt provided the key ingredients for pemmican, which was a food staple and trade good.
- The buffalo hunt was a dominant feature of life for Metis in the Northwest. By 1820, there were usually two hunts held each year, in spring and fall.
- Due to the size of buffalo hunts, the Metis formed governments to oversee the hunts.
- A _____ was elected to lead the hunt, as was a council of lieutenants.
- The council decided when and where the hunt would be held, as well as the number of animals that would be taken.
- _____ were large two-wheeled carts made of woods tied together with leather and usually pulled by oxen or horses.



- They were easily repaired and were capable of being drawn through mud and marshes, and were could be floated across small bodies of water. They could also hold nearly 1000 lbs of cargo.
- The carts were associated with the Metis. Their use was first noted by the NWC in 1801.
- Major cart travel routes included a span from present-day Winnipeg through Saskatchewan to present-day Edmonton and from Winnipeg to St. Paul.

The Pemmican Proclamation

<u>Word Bank</u>		
Battle of Seven Oaks	beaver population	buffalo robe
Fort Gibraltar		Cuthbert Grant

- **What is pemmican?** – Dried and preserved bison meat that was used by fur traders because it would stay edible during travels between trading posts.
- **What was the Pemmican Proclamation?**
A rule saying that food, especially pemmican couldn't be sold and moved out of Red River. This was done to ensure that the Selkirk Settlers would have an adequate food supply. The proclamation was made by Miles MacDonnell on January 8, 1814.

The Pemmican War

- The Pemmican War was when the HBC was confiscating NWC supplies of pemmican, food that was needed for NWC trade journeys.
- The NWC retaliated by arresting HBC workers for burglary and by destroying the crops and buildings of the Selkirk Settlers.
- The Metis and the NWC worked to drive the Selkirk immigrants from the new colony, using theft and threats. By 1815, only 3 original colonists remained. More new immigrants soon arrived.
- In 1815 MacDonnell resigned and Robert Semple took over as governor of the colony.

The Battle of Seven Oaks

- 1816 – Governor Semple orders the HBC to capture and burn _____ of the NWC.

- June 19, 1816: _____ of the NWC and 60 men travel to and encounter Semple and 27 HBC men in an area known as Seven Oaks.



- Gunfire broke out and Semple and 20 HBC men were killed.
- The colony gave up immediately to the NWC.
- This incident is known as the _____.

A Historic Merger

- The HBC and NWC were rivals in the fur trade. The NWC expanded inland and did a lot of exploring in new territory.
- The HBC had started to adopt the NWC trading strategies, and traded furs for cheaper prices, causing the NWC to have financial difficulties.
- The HBC also had the backing of their wealthy owners and the British Bank of England to finance their efforts, while the NWC did not have strong financial backing.
- By 1821, the HBC and NWC were merged into one company, called the HBC.

Changes in the Fur Trade

- After the HBC-NWC merger in 1821, the fur trade began to decline.
- The _____ was depleted due to overhunting and poor conservation.
- The demand for fur also declined due to the replacement of the beaver-fur felt hat with the silk top hat.

- As the beaver fur trade decreased, the number of Métis employed by the HBC also declined.
- A new focus began to be placed on the _____, which could be used for clothing and blankets.
- Bison were killed by the thousands, almost making them extinct.
- The decline of the bison caused a decline in the trade in buffalo robes.

**Decline of the Fur and Bison Trade
Toward the Pacific Coast**

<u>Word Bank</u>		
George Vancouver	Saskatchewan	potlatches
alcohol	Sea otters	gold rushes

The Rising Importance of the Pacific Ocean

- The British became interested in the Pacific Coast for several reasons.
 - _____ were plentiful and sea otter skins were being sold for high prices in China.
 - The Russian Empire was sending trappers down from Alaska (which they owned) to the Pacific Coast to trap sea otters.
 - Spain claimed ownership of the Pacific Coast from San Francisco all the way up to Alaska. Britain disputed this.
 - The Royal Navy was still hoping to find the Northwest Passage to Asia
 - The Hudson’s Bay Company was interested in trading further west and knew the North West Company was exploring the west.

- 1791: HMS Discovery was sent under the command of Captain _____ to accept the surrender of a Spanish post in present-day BC.



- Vancouver searched for the Northwest Passage and spent three years making a detailed survey of the coast of what is now British Columbia.
- Treaties were signed between Spain and Britain that prevented war, ended Spain’s claims to the Pacific Coast and gave the British control of the Pacific Coast.

The HBC moves West

- As the HBC expanded west of the Rocky Mountains, they claimed to have a trade monopoly on the area.
- The HBC built Fort Langley in 1827 and Fort Victoria in 1843.

New Interest in the West

- By the mid-1800s, the rise in immigrants from Europe caused people to consider moving further west.
- Eastern businesses saw a more-populated West as a potential market for their goods and services.
- Calls were made to take over the land from the HBC.

The Palliser and Hind Expeditions

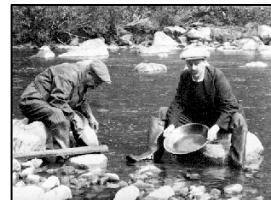
- As interest in the West grew and the chances of the Province of Canada taking over Rupert's Land increased, Britain appointed John Palliser to lead an expedition to determine the value of the region.
- The Palliser Expedition was formed to collect scientific data on First Nations people, to determine the possibility of creating transportation networks in the West and determine the area's suitability for farming.
- In 1857 and 1858 the expedition travelled across _____ and mapped the area.
- Palliser felt the river valleys and partially wooded areas of the province were fertile and suitable for immigrant settlement.
- In 1858 and 1859 the Palliser Expedition travelled into the Rocky Mountains,

seeking routes to the Pacific Ocean. The Expedition returned to England in 1860.

- The findings of the expedition were released in 1863 and increased the desire to annex the land from the HBC.
- Another expedition was the Hind Expedition, which left Toronto in 1857 and explored from Lake Superior to southern Saskatchewan through 1858, mapping the area.
- Hind released a report in 1860 that claimed a larger area of fertile land along the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

The Gold Rush

- One of the main reasons for British Columbia being created as a colony was a renewed American interest in Canada's Pacific Northwest.
- American gold prospectors entered the areas of Fraser River in 1858 and Cariboo in 1862. The influx of new residents led to the growth of transportation, settlements and British involvement.



- The _____ were not lengthy ones. But they did solidify British control over the region and pushed it closer to confederation with Canada.

Dispossession of the First Nations

- Commerce from the fur trade caused many First Nations people to leave traditional home sites and move closer to fur-trading forts.

- Immigrants and traders introduced problems such as _____, smallpox and other diseases.
- By the 1880s, missionaries were trying to suppress First Nations ceremonies (_____), languages and culture.
- The gold rush also negatively affected the First Nations. The gold rush brought in thousands of prospectors, who also brought in disease and some violent confrontations.
- From 1862 to 1865 a smallpox epidemic killed approximately 20 000 First Nations people.
- Governor James Douglas, who was the governor of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, granted reserves only to First Nations who had adopted European ways of life, such as farming. These reserves were small in comparison to the large areas of land opened up for immigrant

Chapter 5 Questions - Toward the Pacific Coast p. 158-167

(How did British Columbia come to be?)

1. What are two reasons why the British were still interested in the Pacific Coast?
2. What did Captain George Vancouver do?
3. What was influencing the idea of settlement on the West Coast?
4. What were the instructions of the Palliser Expedition?
5. What did the Palliser Expedition do?
6. What did the Oregon Treaty do?
7. What colonies in the Pacific were founded by the HBC?
8. What were some problems associated with the Fraser River gold rush?
9. What were the effects that the gold rushes and fur trade had on the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain regions?

