

Canadian History

Cluster 3

Chapter 7

Metis Resistance

In this chapter, the student will be able to:

- Identify why the Metis resisted the westward expansion of Canada, and what were the consequences.

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The Confederation of Manitoba

<u>Word Bank</u>		
buffalo robes	Winnipeg	Selkirk Settlement
agriculture	Rupert’s Land	Red River
Canadian Party		Orange Order

Canadian Expansion Plans

- After the confederation of Canada 1867, people in the colony wanted the Dominion of Canada to expand, especially to the West into _____.
- This was due to the fact that the population was growing rapidly and the best farmland was gone, and the West was found to have good land for _____.
- There was also a desire to prevent the United States from expanding into Rupert’s Land before Canada could establish its own claim.

- In the 1850s and 1860s, due to the decline in the fur trade, more people began to turn to farming, including the English-speaking community and some Metis.
- Increased trade in _____ between the Red River area and St. Paul, Minnesota worried some Canadians that American influence and presence in the Red River area would increase.



The Red River Valley

- One area that was very much affected by the impending acquisition of Rupert’s Land by Canada was the area around the Red and Assiniboine Rivers (present-day _____).
- These areas were home to Metis, but also other groups, including Country-born, Scottish farmers from the _____, First Nations and French-Canadian families.

Outspoken Newcomers

- By 1860, English-speaking settlers from Ontario had moved to Red River.
- John Schultz, (a newspaper publisher who was opposed to the HBC) and others of this group were vocal in their beliefs that Rupert’s Land should be part of Canada.
- This group was referred to as the “_____” and called for the immediate sale of Rupert’s Land to Canada.
- Many of Schultz’s supporters were members of the _____, a protestant organization, which did not mix well with the Catholic and French Metis.

Changes at Red River

- After the merger of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the North West Company in 1821, half of the fur trade jobs available were lost. Some of these fur-trade workers, most of whom were Metis, settled at _____.

How did the Confederation of Manitoba take place?**Word Bank**

Michif
Upper Fort Garry
Convention of Forty

Louis Riel
survey team

Comité National des Métis
Thomas Scott
Sir John A. Macdonald

The Transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada

- April, 1869: HBC and British Government reached a deal to transfer Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada. No indigenous peoples were consulted during the negotiations.
- HBC sold Rupert's Land for £300 000 and kept a significant amount of territory including arable land and land surrounding trading posts.
- The Transfer to Canada was supposed to be completed on December 1, 1869.
- Prime Minister _____ expected the HBC to settle any outstanding concerns over people having title to land in Rupert's Land before the Transfer was complete.
- The HBC did not attempt to resolve these issues.
- Not all residents in the Red River region had their farms and claims to land recorded with the HBC's Land Register. These people were concerned about their future in the event of the Transfer to Canada.

The Survey

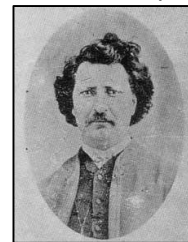
- William McDougall, Minister of the Interior, sent a _____ to Red River, well in advance of the December 1 possession date.



- The Canadian government wanted to survey the land and establish boundary

markers for future immigrants from the rest of Canada.

- The present residents of the Red River region were not consulted about this process.
- The survey crews were seen as trespassers and did not inform residents of their activities.
- There was a language barrier. English-speakers did not speak French or _____, and vice versa.
- The Chief Surveyor suggested a delay until land title concerns were resolved. McDougall ordered the survey team to continue.
- October 11, 1869: Andre Nault, a Metis farmer tried to prevent surveyors from working on his land (the hay allowance located just outside his farm).
- He was ignored and Nault's neighbours and his cousin, _____ stepped in and stopped the survey.



- The group felt that their actions were indicating that the Dominion of Canada could not survey Red River without the permission of residents (as opposed to owners or titleholders)

The Comité National des Métis

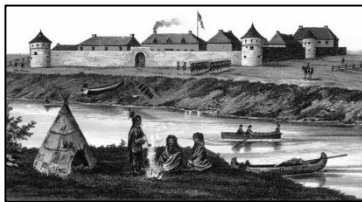
- After the confrontation with Andre Nault, Metis people at the settlement

formed the _____ _____ _____
_____.

- The Comité wrote to William McDougall, who was now Lieutenant-Governor-designate of the North-Western Territory, and said the people of the region (which at this point did not include English-speaking settlers) had to be kept informed, should be part of any negotiations and had to give permission for Canadian delegate to enter Red River.

The Comité takes charge

- November 1, 1869: McDougall and a party of armed officials tried to enter Red River from south of the US border.
- A group of armed Metis led by Ambrose Lepine met the party and led them back across the American border.
- November 2: the Comité and 120 supporters again took over _____ _____ _____.



- November 6: the Comité called for all parishes in the settlement, both English and French, to elect representatives to discuss the region's future.
 - Until that point, English-speaking residents of Red River had not been part of efforts to prevent the takeover by Canada.
- The Canadians were told that until negotiations were complete, only the current residents of Red River could decide who was in political control.
- When Sir John A. Macdonald learned of this, he sent orders to the British government and McDougall to delay the Transfer until the Canadian government could investigate the concerns of the people of Red River.

- December 1, 1869: McDougall rode to the US border, read the proclamation that the land was now under the control of Canada and then returned across the US border.
- This action removed the HBC as owners of the region, but his departure meant that there was no Canadian government presence in the land they had just taken over.
- Essentially, Red River was an area where neither the HBC nor the Canadian government had control.

The Provisional Government is formed

- When McDougall claimed Rupert's Land, the Comité created a list of demands to negotiate the terms of the region's entry into Confederation.
- John Schultz and his supporters grew impatient.
- On December 7, 1869, Schultz's group were arrested for planning to attack the Comité and take over the settlement, much as the Comité had taken over Upper Fort Garry.
- On December 8, 1869, the Comité declared a provisional government, with Louis Riel as president.



- The Comité said the provisional government was necessary to keep peace and order in Red River until negotiations with the Dominion of Canada could take place.
- Because of McDougall's proclamation on December 1, the HBC no longer governed the area, and the Metis were not willing to recognize Canadian authority until their rights were granted.

- January, 1870: Canadian delegates arrived to meet with the provisional government and other members of the community.
- February 7: Red River community members formally elected a provisional government of 20 French-speaking and 20 English-speaking representatives to negotiate with the Dominion of Canada. Riel was again named president of this provisional government.
- This group was called the _____ and continued to work on a list of rights to be used in negotiating with Canada.

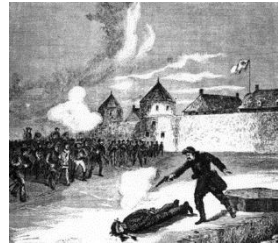
The Deaths of Parisien and Sutherland

- Not all people supported the Convention of Forty and their list of rights.
- John Schultz and others opposed this provisional government and planned to overthrow it.
- February 16, 1870: A group of Schultz's supporters called the "Portage Gang" attacked a Metis woodcutter named Norbert Parisien. As Parisien tried to escape, he shot and killed a passer-by named John Sutherland.
- Parisien died of his injuries in April of 1870.

The Execution of Thomas Scott

- February 19, 1870: a group of Schultz supporters was arrested for attempting to take over Upper Fort Garry.

- One of them was _____, who was from Ontario and said to be a member of the Orange Order.
- While in captivity, Scott made anti-Catholic and anti-French comments.
- The provisional government tried Scott and two others for treason, found them guilty and sentenced them to death.
- Riel pardoned the two other men, but did not pardon Thomas Scott.
- March 4, 1870: Thomas Scott was executed by firing squad.



- March 24, 1870: a delegation from Red River went to Ottawa to start negotiations with the Government of Canada.
- The news of Scott's execution reached Ottawa before the delegation did, and they were arrested upon arriving in Ontario. They were quickly released so that negotiations could still take place.
- Public opinion was divided over Scott's execution:
 - In Ontario, public opinion was against the Red River delegation and held Riel responsible for the death of Thomas Scott.
 - In Quebec, some people viewed Riel as a hero and defender of Catholicism and French culture.

The Manitoba Act

<u>Word Bank</u>		
Dakota Territory	Adams Archibald	Colonel Garnet Woseley
Old Settlement Belt	self-governing	July 15, 1870
bilingualism		<i>Manitoba Act</i>

- Negotiations still went on and the Canadian government passed the Manitoba Bill on May 12, 1870.
- In June, the British government approved the _____ and set _____ as the date the act would take effect.
- In Manitoba, the provisional government voted to accept the terms of entry into Canada as outlined in the *Manitoba Act*.

- Manitoba was initially a very small province, and did not have the same rights to natural resources like the other provinces.

The Red River Expeditionary Force

- As soon as the Manitoba Act's negotiations were complete the government of Canada sent a military force to Red River to help the province's lieutenant-governor, _____, keep order.

Terms of the Manitoba Act

- The Manitoba Act included many terms from the Metis List of Rights that was passed by the Convention of Forty:
 - Manitoba entered Canada as a _____ province that could elect its own local government instead of a territory with an appointed council.
 - Sections 22 and 23 guaranteed government support for church-run schools and enshrined official _____ in the legislature and courts.
 - Section 31 promised that children of Metis and Country-born families would receive title to land.
 - Section 32 guaranteed people title to the land they already owned and occupied as of July 15, 1870. These lands were located along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers and were referred to as the _____.



- This military force, called the Red River Expeditionary Force, was led by _____.



- The Red River Expeditionary Force left Toronto in May of 1870 and it took the force four months to reach Manitoba. They reached Upper Fort Garry in late August.

The "Reign of Terror"

- After arriving in Red River, the Red River Expeditionary Force took control of the settlement.



- An American newspaper referred to this period of time as a “reign of terror”.
- The Expeditionary Force was seen by members of the provisional government as wanting to exact revenge for the execution of Thomas Scott. The troops were accused of engaging in assault, theft and arson.
- Members of the provisional government, including Louis Riel had been warned of the troops’ hostility and had fled.
- Louis Riel fled to St. Joseph’s mission, about 10 miles south of the border in what was then called the _____.



- September 13, 1870: Elzear Goulet, a naturalized American citizen, supporter of the provisional government, member of the Thomas Scott tribunal, and one of Scott’s escorts to his execution was chased by three men, two of whom were in uniform.
- They pursued him to the Red River as he attempted to swim across to St. Boniface. The three men threw rocks at Goulet and he drowned.
- New Lieutenant-Governor Adams Archibald arrived on September 2, 1870 and attempted to restore control over the troops, but violence against the Metis of Red River continued until 1872.
- Archibald set up a temporary government and called for the province’s first election to be held on December 30, 1870.
- Archibald called for reconciliation between the Dominion and provisional governments. The Dominion of Canada granted amnesty to some members of the provisional government, except those seen as responsible for Thomas Scott’s execution, including Louis Riel and Ambroise Lepine.

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Dispersal and New Challenges

<u>Word Bank</u>		
Batoche	Steamboats	Montana
Canadian Pacific Railway	Alberta	exile
North Saskatchewan River		amnesty

- Following the Red River Rebellion, a reward of \$5000 was offered by the Ontario government for Riel's capture. Many private bounty hunters pursued Riel and Ambroise Lepine.
- Riel fled to the United States in August of 1870. He returned several times, until the summer of 1872. In absentia, he was elected to Parliament in 1873 and 1874.
- On March 30th, 1874, he entered the parliament building, took the required oath of allegiance, signed the member's roll and left the building, headed for Montreal. On April 9, Riel was expelled from the House of Commons.
- He was again elected in a by-election in late 1874, but did not attempt to take his seat in Parliament.
- In 1875, the Liberal government offered Riel _____ for his actions during the Red River Rebellion, in exchange for his agreement to go into _____ in the United States and stay out of Canada for five years.
- Riel secretly returned to Canada in 1877, 1878 and 1879.
- Early on in his exile, Riel fell into periods of depression, spending time in two Quebec asylums.
- In 1879 he moved to _____ and worked as a trader, trading with First Nations and American Metis.
- Riel married in 1881 and in 1883, became an American citizen and took a teaching position at St. Peter's mission school in Montana.
- During this time, the number of English-speaking Canadians and new immigrants to the area began to outnumber of

French-speaking Canadians, as well as French-speaking Metis and the English dialect-speaking Country-born.

- Many French-speaking Catholics, especially the French Metis, began to face discrimination, as did Country-born who could not easily adopt the English-speaking Canadians' ways.
- In the face of racism and discrimination, many Country-born and Metis began to be collectively known as Metis.
- Due to delays and problems with land grants, and in the face of opposition from the increasing numbers of Protestant immigrants, many Metis decided to leave Manitoba. More than 4000 left between 1870 and 1885.
- The largest Metis groups settled along the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, in areas such as St. Laurent, _____, Duck Lake, and Prince Albert.
- Other Metis moved to the United States and present-day _____ settling at St. Albert, Lac Ste. Anne and Lac La Biche.
- Things were not much better in the then-Northwest Territories for the Metis.
- _____ on the rivers had begun to replace the Metis for carrying freight.



- The bison were close to extinction, due to a variety of factors, from overhunting,

an 1845 drought and hunting for commercial purpose.

- Attempts at farming were hindered by crop failures.
- By 1873, the Metis at St. Laurent were petitioning the Canadian government to ask that their land titles be secured. None of the petitions were answered.
- Settler and immigrant expansion continued across Canada. The Canadian government had started to build the _____.
- The CPR was intended to span the entire country and its territories, running from Winnipeg to the area along the _____

_____. Land speculators and Metis competed for land along the river, even for land that had already been settled by the Metis.

- Metis petitions to the government regarding land ownership continued throughout the 1870s, with no results. Some Metis chose to move further west, towards Alberta.
- In 1884, a delegation of Metis, travelled to Montana to seek out Louis Riel. They wanted him to lead them in a struggle for fair treatment by the federal government. Riel agreed to do so.

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The North-West Resistance

<u>Word Bank</u>		
Gabriel Dumont	smallpox	Poundmaker
Duck Lake	Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek	Cut Knife Hill
Wandering Spirit	St. Laurent	United States
Gatling Gun	treason-felony	Prince Albert

The North-West Resistance

- Riel spent the summer of 1884 visiting communities in the _____ region to get a sense of people’s priorities before petitioning the government.
- Political leaders in Ottawa were nervous about Riel’s return. Riel stated he wanted a peaceful resolution to the problems, but the political leaders did not trust Riel and monitored his activities.
- In the fall of 1884, Riel and William Henry Jackson (a non-Metis from Ontario who later converted to Catholicism and changed his name to Honore Jaxon) worked on a petition that outlined people’s grievances. This petition was sent to Ottawa on December 16, 1884.

- The government acknowledged the petition, but only set up a commission to look into the problems.
- March 18, 1885: a group of Metis occupied a church in Batoche and cut the telegraph lines between Regina and _____.
- March 19: the Metis leaders declare a provisional government. Pierre Parenteau was elected president and _____ was made the military leader.



- Riel again wrote a Metis Bill of Rights and the Metis community armed itself in support of the provisional government.

Community Responses

- English-speaking members of the communities along the Saskatchewan Rivers supported Riel, but would not take up arms.
- Some First Nations leaders like _____ and Big Bear were also sympathetic.



- First Nations were also enduring hardships such as a _____ epidemic, government regulations and the decline of the bison herds.
- Many First Nations people were starving and needed help. Some felt that there were hopes that the Metis confrontation would bring attention to the First Nations' concerns.
- However, there was no formal military alliance between the First Nations and Metis.

Battle at Duck Lake

- March 21, 1885: the provisional government asks for the surrender of Fort Carlton's commander, Superintendent L.N.F. Crozier,
- March 25: a group of Metis take over several stores in _____ in search of food and other provisions.
- March 26: volunteer's under Crozier's command and a party of North-West

Mounted Police (NWMP) left Fort Carlton to re-establish government control at Duck Lake.

- Confrontation and fighting broke out at Duck Lake between Crozier's force of 95 men and 250 Metis.
- The police managed to retreat to Fort Carlton and avoid being captured.

The Conflict Escalates

- Most First Nations actions in the North-West Rebellion were independent of Metis Forces.
- First Nations got involved to serve the goals of their own communities.
 - Many First Nations had been unsuccessfully asking for increased rations for their people.
- Days after the Battle of Duck Lake, a group of Cree from the Poundmaker and Little Pine reserves, facing starvation, raided stores at Battleford, as well as nearby farms.
- Fearing for their safety, most European settlers retreated into the fort located in the newer section of Battleford. During this siege, the older parts of Battleford were ransacked and all but six homes were burned to the ground.
- Cree war chief _____ took charge of Big Bear's First Nation and on April 2, 1885 led a group that raided HBC stores at Frog Lake for food, weapons and ammunition.
- Big Bear was against the use of violence, but 8 settlers and a Canadian government official were killed before he could stop the violence.

- Before the Dominion Government had been notified of the defeat at Duck Lake, Major-General Frederick Middleton was sent to Winnipeg and militia units in the city prepared for action.
- March 30, 1885: 600 troops were sent from Toronto. They reached Qu'Appelle six days later, due to the near-completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR).
- Middleton then took command of a group of soldiers and militia and marched toward Batoche.

The First Skirmishes

- April 24, 1885: Middleton's forces encounter Metis forces commanded by Gabriel Dumont at _____.
- The Metis were outnumbered and outgunned. They launched a single volley at the Canadian troops and retreated to cover, using sniper fire in order to conserve ammunition.
- The Canadian forces were split in half by a river. They attacked with cannon fire, and did little damage to the Metis, but did deter a Cree force from joining the Metis in the battle.
- Despite the heavy casualties inflicted upon the enemy, Metis morale deteriorated as the battle wore on. Famished, dehydrated, and low on ammunition, Dumont's forces knew their positions would not hold out indefinitely.
- Middleton ultimately decided to withdraw.
- May 2, 1885: Lieutenant-Colonel William Otter took a force of army, militia and police and attacked a group of Cree and

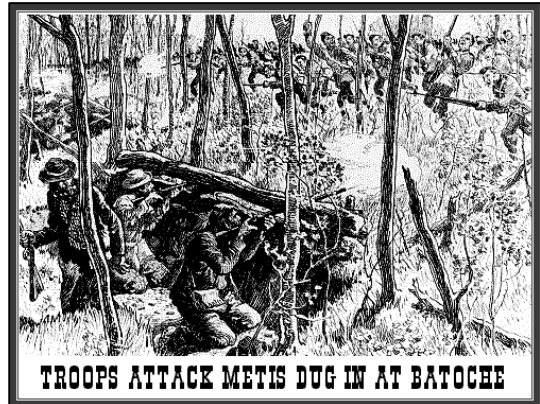
Assiniboine at _____, near Battleford. The troops were eager to punish those they held responsible for the looting at Battleford.



- The First Nations were able to fend off the troops and forced them to retreat.

The Battle of Batoche

- May 9, 1885: Middleton led a force of 850 against 300 Metis and First Nations fighters at Batoche.
- The Metis adopted a defensive position.



- The Canadian use of the _____ prevented Gabriel Dumont from capturing Canadian cannons.
- The Canadians easily captured territory from the Metis forces on May 10.
- Women in Batoche supplied food to the Metis fighters, cared for the young and old nursed the wounded and helped make ammunition. They also gave views on military strategy and were unafraid to voice their disapproval.

- After three days, 75% of the Metis forces were wounded or scattered and divided by the artillery fire.
- A final charge forced the Metis from the town. Outnumbered and outgunned, the Metis surrendered soon afterwards.

Aftermath of the Resistance

- Women and children of the Batoche camp fled for their lives and hid in the hills southeast of Batoche.
- These women and children returned to find houses at Batoche looted and burned. This would cause hardships for years to come.
- Riel surrendered to government troops on May 15, 1885.
- Gabriel Dumont did not believe he would receive a fair trial, so he escaped

to the _____, along with several other Metis leaders.

- Poundmaker and Big Bear also eventually surrendered to the NWMP.
- Following the conflict, 71 Metis and First Nations people were tried for _____, 12 were tried for murder and Louis Riel was tried for high treason.
- Big Bear and Poundmaker were each sentenced to three years in prison. Neither served the full term and both died within months of their releases.
- November 27, 1885: 8 First Nations soldiers, including Wandering Spirit, were executed in Battleford for their actions in the North-West Resistance.

p. 218-222 in text

The Trial of Louis Riel

<u>Word Bank</u>		
scrip	Regina	public schools
marginalization		high treason

- July 6, 1885: Riel charged with _____ for his role during the resistance.
- Riel’s lawyers argued for a 12-person jury, with six English-speaking and six French-speaking members.
- They also wanted the trial moved to Manitoba, where they hoped to find more sympathetic jurors.
- They also argued that Riel was an American citizen and should be tried in an American court.
- None of these requests were granted.

- A six-person jury was chosen, all of whom were English-speaking Protestants and the trial was held in _____.
- Riel’s lawyers wanted him to plead not guilty by reason of insanity. Riel had spent time in mental institutions. Riel refused to plead insanity because he felt it might undermine the legitimacy of the Métis resistance.



The Verdict

- Riel was found guilty of high treason, which carried an automatic death penalty.
- The jury recommended that the judge show leniency in sentencing.
- Riel was still sentenced to death on August 1, 1885.
- After all his appeals were denied, Riel was hanged in Regina on November 16, 1885.
- The hanging of Riel widened divisions between the French and English in Canada, with the French believing that Riel was executed because he was French and Catholic and the English feeling that Riel was justifiably executed for having pronounced the death sentence against Thomas Scott for similar crimes.

Métis Life after 1885

- Life for the Métis after the North-West Resistance was difficult.
- Relations with the government were strained.
- The issue of _____ after 1885 was not very beneficial for the Métis.
- Scrip was often sold after farming attempts were unsuccessful due to the cost of equipment.
- Some Métis had no choice but to live on public land.

Métis Marginalization

- Many Métis people survived during these years doing menial labour.
- Some trapped and hunted to survive.
- Some Métis who were not landowners or taxpayers were denied access to services like _____.
- The government did not attempt to address the social, economic and political _____ of the Métis until the 1930s and 1940s.

Chapter 7 Questions

1. Why were the Metis opposed to the westward expansion of Canada? (page 2)

2. Why was Thomas Scott executed? (page 4)

3. Why did Louis Riel move to the United States after the 1870 Red River Rebellion? (page 7)

4. Why did Louis Riel come back to Canada during the North West Rebellion in 1885? (page 8)

5. Why was Louis Riel executed? (page 11-12)
