

RED RIVER RESISTANCE PT. 1



PRELIMINARY EVENTS: MIGRANTS

1. Influx of new migrants looking for land

- Mostly English-speaking Protestants
- Many belonging to the Orange Order
 - Anti-French and Anti-Catholic
- Most likely adhering to Victorian attitudes and values



SCHULTZ

2. John Christian Schultz

- Member of the Orange Order
- Took over the Nor'Wester
 - Writes inflammatory comments
- Wants political control; establishes Canadian party



ECONOMIC ISSUES

3. Economic Issues

- Crop failures
 - Grasshopper plague '67-'68
- Decreased Success in Bison hunts
- HBC sees Rupert's Land as too expensive



RUPERT'S LAND FOR SALE...

- Shortly after Confederation, the Canadian Govt. purchases Rupert's Land from the HBC.
 - Transfer official in 1869
 - Renamed North-West Territory in 1870
- People are worried, especially the Métis.
 - Land sold without consultation
 - Worried Cdn. Govt. will take their land
- Surveyors arrive, assume Métis lands are not legally owned

LOUIS RIEL

- Born in October of 1844
- Son of Louis Sr. (a respected member of the Red River Settlement and a supporter of Guillaume Sayer).
- A “serious and gifted student”, but “moody”
- Sent to Montreal to study for the priesthood
- Studied law



LOUIS CONT.

- Returns to Red River in 1868.
- Fluent in French and English
- Well-educated
- An excellent orator
- Family background and education makes him the obvious choice for leader of the Métis



RISING TENSIONS:

- Surveyors do not recognize Métis property rights
- Riel organizes a group of Métis to observe surveyors
- In Oct. 1869, surveyors are seen on a hay privilege.
 - Riel is sent for
 - Arrives with horsemen
 - Informs surveyors of trespassing
- Riel forms the National Métis Committee (NMC)

THE PROVISIONAL GOVT.

- Sir John A. appoints William McDougall as Lieutenant Governor of the new North-West Territories (to take effect when the transfer is made).
- The NMC informs McDougall he is NOT welcome
 - McDougall ignores
- The NMC occupies Ft. Garry
 - Seize weapons and ammo
 - Determined to fight for their rights if necessary

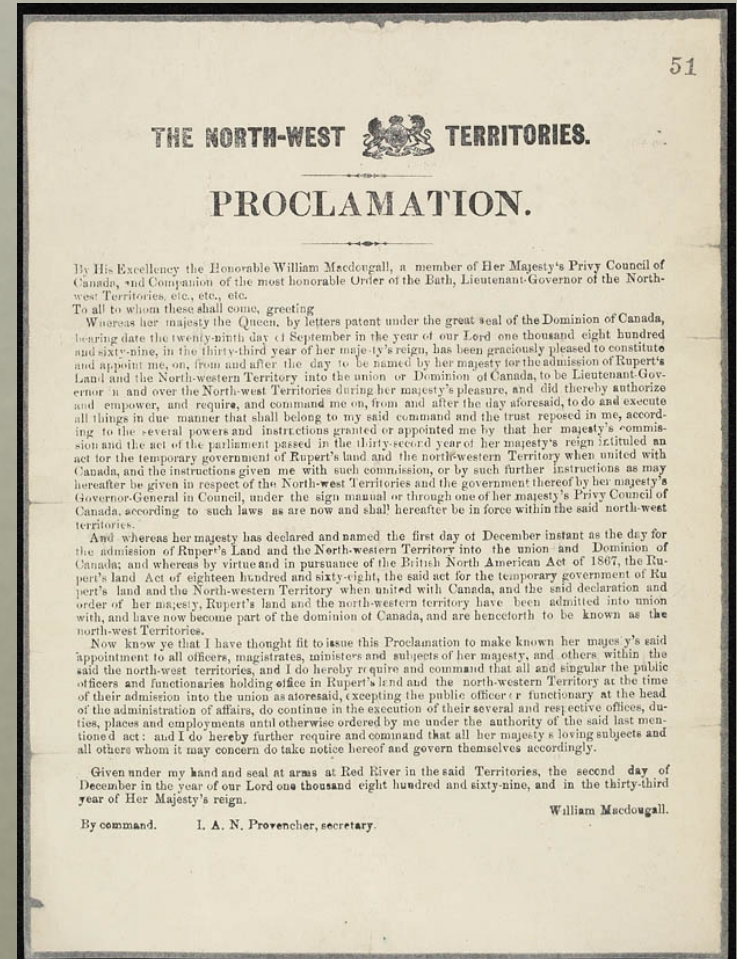


PROVISIONAL GOV'T. CONT.

- No intentions of rebellion
- Not opposed to Confederation
 - Just want rights guaranteed and protected
- To ensure a voice, Riel establishes a provisional government.
 - Maintain order
 - Help negotiate an agreement into Confederation
 - Fears McDougall (anti-French) will give all power to Schultz's Canadian Party

MCDougALL'S PROCLAMATION

- Sir John A. postpones the transfer.
- Writes to McDougall to “take no action”
- Letter arrives too late
 - McDougall crosses into RL & proclaims himself governor
 - Then crosses back into USA
 - His proclamation is circulated in the Red River Settlement



- IRONY: McDougall's proclamation meant the HBC was not in control, but neither was Canada as McDougall was in the USA.
 - Sir John's letter had warned against this....
- The Provisional Government is the legal government with sovereign rights.
 - Any action taken by the Canadian Party will now be against the law

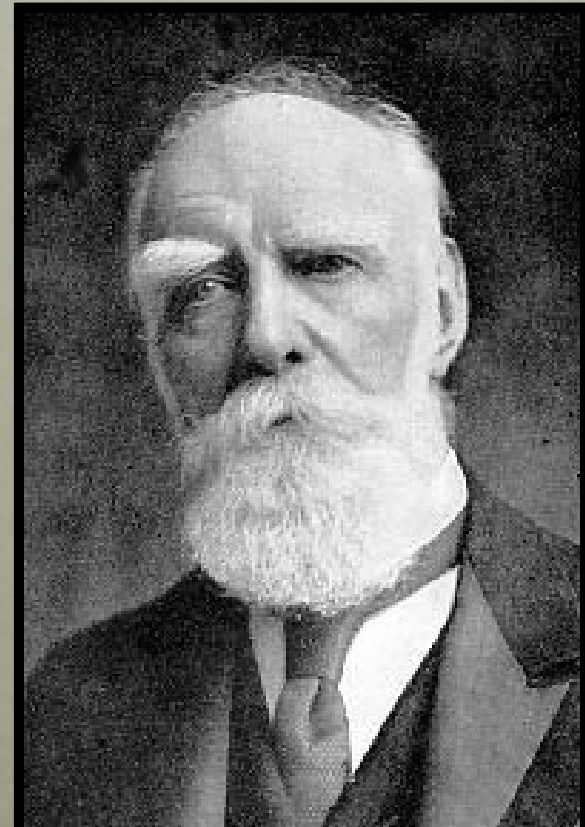
RIEL TAKES ACTION:

- Fears the Cdn. Party is armed and prepared to take control of the Settlement.
- Riel decides to act first
 - December 1, 1869 arrests Schultz and 48 of his supporters
 - Confines them in Upper Ft. Garry



SIR JOHN'S RESPONSE

- Sir John A. sends Donald Smith, a senior-level HBC official to negotiate with Riel.
- He is seeking a peaceful attempt, but is more than willing to use other means (military force) as necessary.



Donald Alexander Smith

SMITH AND RIEL

- Smith arrives in January of 1870
- He and Riel agree that the provisional government should send negotiators to Ottawa.
- Meanwhile, Schultz and several supporters escape
 - Métis capture (one ends up being executed)
 - The end of the threat of war with the Canadian Party is over.
- MORE TO COME...