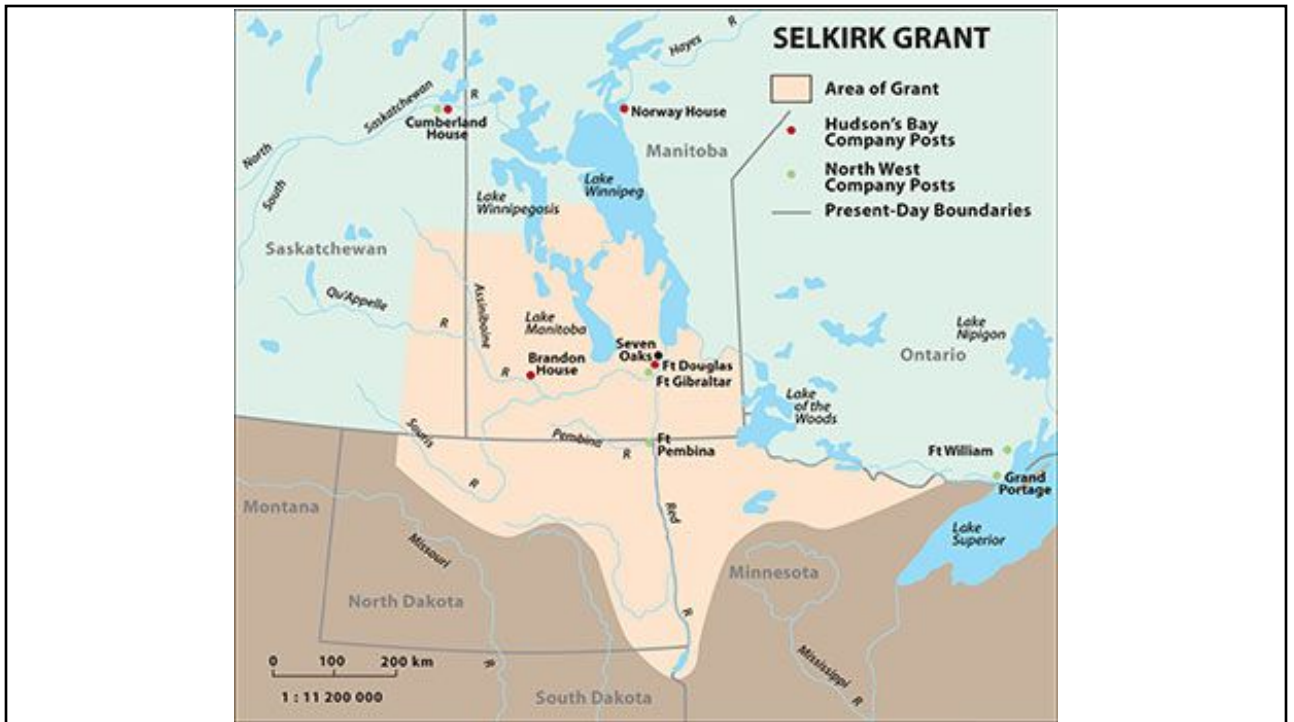


CONFLICT AT THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT

The Metis vs. The Canadian Government

RED RIVER VALLEY





WHAT DID SELKIRK TO DO SOLVE THE DISPUTE?

- Took military control of the Red River area and started the colony over for a THIRD time
- Spring of 1817, he made a treaty with the Ojibwa and Cree
 - He was to pay 100 pounds of tobacco per year and in exchange he could have a lease on the land of the Red River Valley
- Battled NWC in court, but it didn't go anywhere and he eventually died.

MERGER OF THE HBC AND NWC



- By 1820, the HBC and NWC couldn't afford to battle anymore
 - The only way they could survive was to become one company. It was called The Hudson's Bay Company
- British government gave new HBC control of Rupert's Land and all land to the West of the Rocky Mountains, and gave them the monopoly of trading fur (means no one else could trade fur in that area)
- George Simpson took over as the head of the company
 - Had many children with Native women but was too racist to acknowledge them when he married a young British girl.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT 1821-1860: A TIME OF PEACE

- After 1821, peace and stability came to the Red River Settlement for 40 years
- Metis, country born, Scottish and Swiss colonists, and HBC employees lived there
- Very isolated from rest of Canada at the time, so was very self sufficient
- By 1860, 80% of the population was of mixed descent

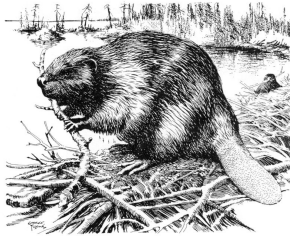


HBC MONOPOLY ON FURS ENDS

Metis started fighting for the right to trade furs in the 1840's

1849: Four Metis are charged with illegal fur trading

- They were put on trial and found guilty, but the judge did not sentence them - they were off scot free
- Metis said, "Business is open! Long live freedom!" and the fur trade monopoly had officially been broken



CONFLICT ARISES IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY: 1860-1870

Profound changes occurred to the Red River Settlement in the 1860's

The largest change was population growth:

- The rising population of Canada West in the 1850's meant most of the land for agriculture had been settled on.
- The Red River Valley became an appealing place for settlers to come live.



NO PEOPLE, NO PROBLEMS



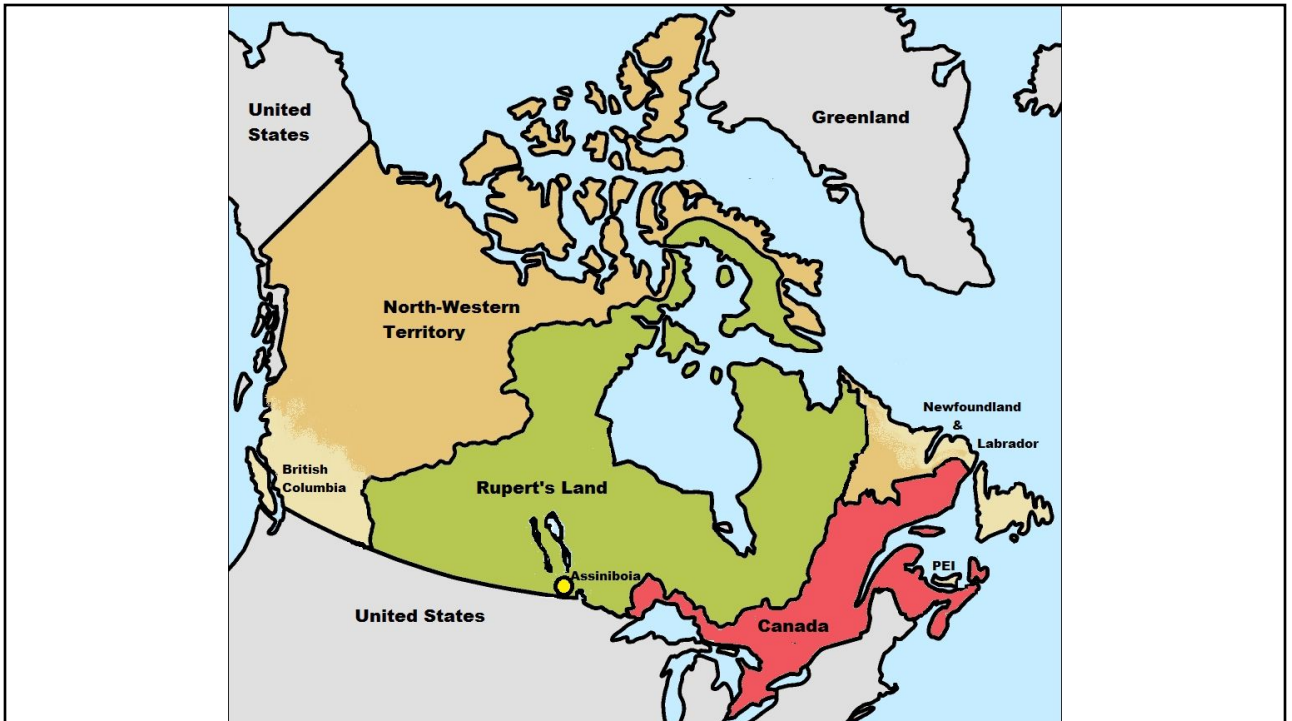
Tensions begin to rise between new settlers and the Metis

- Most new settlers to the Red River were Protestant and a part of the Orange Order
 - The Orange order was a violent anti-French, anti-Catholic group
- They were very prejudice against the Metis who were French speaking, Catholic and viewed as inferior because of their bicultural heritage (Called Metis “Half Breeds”)
- Christian Schultz = Huge Racist
 - Opened newspaper and printed his anti-Metis views in it
 - Created the “Canadian Party” in hopes of taking over control of the settlement



CANADA BUYS RUPERT'S LAND FROM HBC

- 1867-1868: Canada was now a united country with John A Macdonald as Prime Minister.
- Fur trade was declining, more people moved to the Northwest, HBC had trouble controlling their huge amount of land, so HBC decided to sell their land to Canadian Government.
- 1869: Canadian received Rupert's Land, and joined it with the north western territory. Canada doubled in size.
- HBC received \$300,00 cash money, 2.8 million hectares of farmland, and the right to continue fur trade



TENSIONS BEGIN TO RISE!



- Metis never made a legal claim to their territory - they believed if a person cleared the land and farmed it they owned it.
- HBC did NOT consult the people who lived in the Red River Settlement before they sold all the land
- When surveyors showed up to Red River, they assumed no one owned the property they lived on so they started to lay out square townships with no regard for the people already living there.

The people living in the Red River valley were extremely angry, especially the Metis! They knew the Canadian Government was going to try to take away their land.

LOUIS RIEL

- Born in 1844
- Son of Louis Riel Sr., who had been the leader of the Metis people until 1864 when he died.
- Louis Riel was literate and a well educated lawyer
- Fluent in French and English
- Was an excellent speaker
- Returned to the Red River Settlement when he was 24 and became the leader of the Metis people.



THE BEGINNING OF A REBELLION



- Summer of 1869: In an effort to preserve the rights of his people, Riel organized bands of Metis to confront the surveyors
- One week later Riel formed the Metis National Committee to fight for Metis concerns about their land
 - Their first task was to greet the new governor of the North-West Territories, William McDougall. They told him to go back to Ottawa because they intended to govern themselves.
 - Next, several Metis under Riel's command occupied Fort Garry and took all its munitions. This is considered the beginning of the Red River Rebellion.

- Riel had no intention of rebelling against Canada, he just wanted to ensure that the people of the Red River would retain their rights and traditions after the region was transferred to Canadian authority.
- Riel set up a temporary government to maintain order and negotiate an agreement for the Red River Settlement to enter Confederation as the province of Manitoba
- Riel feared that Governor McDougall would give members of the Canadian Party all the power and ignore the Metis, leading to the Metis losing all of their rights.

In response, The Metis of the Red River created The Metis List of Rights on December 1, 1869

LIST OF RIGHTS.

1. That the people have the right to elect their own Legislature.
2. That the Legislature have the power to pass all laws local to the Territory over the veto of the Executive by a two-thirds vote.
3. That no act of the Dominion Parliament (local to the Territory) be binding on the people until sanctioned by the Legislature of the Territory.
4. That all Sheriffs, Magistrates, Constables, School Commissioners, etc., be elected by the people.
5. A free Homestead and pre-emption Land Law.
6. That a portion of the public lands be appropriated to the benefit of Schools, the building of Bridges, Roads and Public Buildings.
7. That it be guaranteed to connect Winnipeg by Rail with the nearest line of Railroad, within a term of five years; the land grant to be subject to the Local Legislature.
8. That for the term of four years all Military, Civil, and Municipal expenses be paid out of the Dominion funds.
9. That the Military be composed of the inhabitants now existing in the Territory.
10. That the English and French languages be common in the Legislature and Courts, and that all Public Documents and Acts of the Legislature be published in both languages.
11. That the Judge of the Supreme Court speak the English and French languages.
12. That Treaties be concluded and ratified between the Dominion Government and the several tribes of Indians in the Territory to ensure peace on the frontier.
13. That we have a fair and full representation in the Canadian Parliament.
14. That all privileges, customs and usages existing at the time of the transfer be respected.

All the above articles have been severally discussed and adopted by the French and English Representatives without a dissenting voice, as the conditions upon which the people of Rupert's Land enter into Confederation.

The French Representatives then proposed in order to secure the above rights, that a Delegation be appointed and sent to Pembina to see Mr. Macdougall and ask him if he could guarantee these rights by virtue of his commission; and if he could do so, that then the French people would join to a man to escort Mr. Macdougall into his Government seat. But on the contrary, if Mr. Macdougall could not guarantee such rights, that the Delegation request him to remain where he is, or return till the rights be guaranteed by Act of the Canadian Parliament.

The English Representatives refused to appoint Delegates to go to Pembina to consult with Mr. Macdougall, stating they had no authority to do so from their constituents, upon which the Council was dissolved.

The meeting at which the above resolutions were adopted was held at Fort Garry, on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1869. Winnipeg, December 4th, 1869.

The formal List of Rights, drawn up by the Provisional Governing Council of the Métis Nation, as the formal conditions for the entry of Rupert's Land into Confederation, December 1, 1869.



MORE REBELLION TO COME...

