The Red River Settlement (RRS)

Pages 151-162

1. By 1860, what was the ethnic make-up of the RRS looking like?
2. Who was John Schultz and how was he significant to Canada?
3. In what year was Rupert's Land purchased, and by whom?
4. How did Schultz feel about the Metis?
5. How and why did Canadian land surveyors cause problems in the RRS?
6. Who was Louis Riel?
7. Faced with uncertainly about the future of the RRS, including their traditions and cultures, Riel and his followers did what?
8. What was the ultimate goal of Riel's provincial government? Did they want a Rebellion?
9. Who was Thomas Scott and how did the Metis end up executing him?
10. Who blew the execution out of proportion? Note some details of what the execution ended up looking like to the people e in Ottawa.
11. What was the name of the new province that Riel and his followers wanted to join into confederation?

- Was it accepted?

- What were the terms that were agreed on by both the Metis and Macdonald?

1. How did Macdonald ensure a safe and calm transfer of power in the new province?
2. What eventually happened to Riel and the members of his provisional government?
3. What was Riel's punishment for his actions?

The Red River Settlement 1821-1860

Chapter 4, pp. 151-154

* After 1821 peace came to Red river Settlement - next 40 yrs. tight knit and self sufficient.
* Farming community with birth rate high (up to 10 kids) - Population rapid increase in 1840's and on.
* By 1860, 80% mixed descent.
* Economy built around needs of HBC.
* Scottish settlers grew crops and sold produce to HBC for posts.
* Metis mainly hunted Bison - pemmican and hides (buffalo robes) to HBC.
* Country born saw themselves as superior to Metis as they held "white collar jobs". ex: teachers, store owners.
* Law upheld by HBC.
* Problem over free trade of furs arose - Illegal to trade anything, violated HBC monopoly.
* 1840, Metis began fighting for right to trade furs.
* 1849, 4 Metis traders charged with illegal trading.
* Put on trial and verdict was guilty but with mercy... HBC monopoly broken.
* Isolation at RRS fostered sense of reliance among habitants.
* Crop failures very serious - fruit and veggies were rare.
* Pemmican was the staple.
* Windmill provided power.
* Women and Men worked side by side but a women's life was harder...
* Women - used sickles to cut wheat by hand, processed all wool, baked bannock, took care of children.
* Small town mentality, everybody knew everybody. Gossip had large consequences and no secrets were kept.

Changes: The Red River Settlement between 1860-1870

pp. 155-162

* Rising Canadian population, more moving west. RRS appealing to live and farm.
* HBC began to decline.
* Most new settlers were Protestants and orange order members (A violently anti-French, anti-Catholic movement). They were prejudiced against the Metis.
* Racism towards Metis increased tension.
* John Shultz came and opened a general store and took over NorWester (news paper).
* Used the paper to show views against the Metis.
* Organized small group into Canadian party, hoped to take over the RRS.
* 1860 - economic problems also causing rise in tension. (crop failures, bison disappearing, HBC losing interest in area).
* Metis never made legal claim to territory = problems later in late 1860's.

## Canada purchases Rupert's Land p. 156-157

* The BNAA noted eventual acquisition of Rupert's Land form the HBC.
* HBC realized it was time to change. Too many settlers and slow business.
* 1867-68, Canadian gov' and HBC begin negotiations. Did not consider people of RRS.
* 1869, agreement made - Can gov' received the title to Rupert's land and HBC got $1.5 million, 2.8 million hectares of prairie farmland and right to fur trade with no monopoly as before.
* Canada had now doubled in size, connecting RL to the NW territory. See map p. 157.
* Canadian surveyors had started laying grids of townships before negotiations even finished.
* Surveyors operated on assumption that current occupants did not own their land and did not recognize the seigneurial patterns that had existed since the 1820's.
* Louis Riel, age 24 returned to lead the Metis. Well educated, fluent French and English.

## The Red river rebellion (RRR) p. 158-162

* Settlers angry HBC proceeded without consultation.
* Also angry they laid down square townships with no regard to traditional strip lots, wondered if Can gov was trying to take their land.
* Riel organized bands of Metis to observe and confront surveyors.
* Riel then organized group to protect Metis rights, Metis National Committee
* First task was to greet new governor of the NWT's, William McDougall. Not warm welcome, they were told him to return to Ottawa as they planned to govern themselves.
* Next, Metis occupied fort Gary and seized its munitions... Red River Rebellion started!
* Riel and supporters had no intention of RRR, just wanted to ensure their traditions and rights would remain after the joining of Canada.
* Set up a provisional government to maintain order and to negotiate land, and join Confederation as Manitoba.
* Riel feared that McDougall would give members of the Can Party all of the power and ignore the Metis if he were allowed to take charge of the area.
* Metis drew up a list of rights (see page 159).
* In December, Riel took group of Metis to Shultz home and held him and 48 others at Fort Gary - Riel declared, ready to negotiate.
* Macdonald refused to negotiate or even recognize these "miserable half-breeds".
* Provincial government met and drafted a proposal to create Manitoba, which a Metis rep. could take to Ottawa.
* Shultz escaped and planned to free others... was caught again and one of the raiders was Thomas Scott, the most belligerent member of the Canadian party.
* Scott loudly publicised his views in prison and abused guards, threatened the life of Riel.
* March 4, Scott was executed by firing squad by Riel's provisional government.
* Trouble looked like it had passed, however many people of RRS regretted execution of Scott.
* Schultz had left the NW for Ontario and he began to publicize his views on the Metis and the Scott execution.
* Gradually, Orange Order created a mythology around Thomas Scott - he was transformed in to a Protestant who had been cruelly murdered by the Metis.
* Cries for retribution soon reached the gov' ears in Ottawa.
* Manitoba accepted into confederation and MacDonald compromised by giving the Metis 200 000 hectares of Land in recognition of their aboriginal title.
* MacDonald also determined to show his support for the calls demanding justice from Ontario... He sent 1200 to RRS under Colonel Wolseley to keep peace during power shift.
* Riel fled at news of MacDonald's move. All members of the provisional gov' were granted amnesty, except Riel.
* Riel was banished from Canada for 5 years. He departed quietly and spent next 15 years in USA.