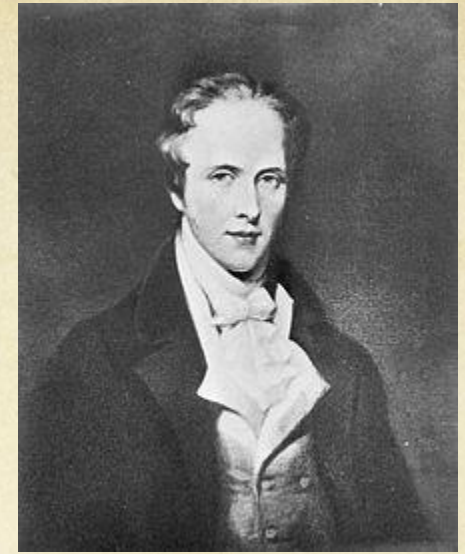


Expansion of Canada – how Manitoba entered Confederation

The Red River Settlement

Selkirk Settlement

- Thomas Douglas, also known as Lord Selkirk, created a settlement for fellow Scots who were losing their land due to enclosure
- This settlement was created along the Red River because of its fertile soils



Conflict in the Red River

- The Scottish immigrants and the Selkirk settlement created tensions with the NWC and the Metis
- Selkirk settlers were facing starvation so food was not allowed to leave the region, impacting Metis trade and relations with the NWC
- This resulted in raids, harassment and eventually a violent clash



Development of a community

- Between 1821 and 1860, the Red River settlement became a close knit community of Metis, country-born, Scottish colonists, Swiss mercenaries, and employees of the HBC
 - In 1821, the population was evenly divided amongst Metis, country-born, and European settlers
 - By 1860, 80% of the population was of mixed ancestry
- The economy revolved around the HBC
 - Scottish: farmers and sold crops to HBC
 - Metis: farmers, hunted bison, labourers on York boats or at HBC trading posts
 - Country-born: clerks, teachers, judges, store owners

- Due to its isolation, inhabitants of the Red River colony had to be self reliant
- Life was physically demanding
- Men and women both had important roles in society
- Metis women, with their knowledge of traditional medicines, became midwives and health care providers
- Limited food and variety in diet



Race and Social Class in the Red River Colony

- Racism and a social hierarchy developed within the Red River Colony
 - HBC traders were known to “turn off” their Metis wives and families
 - Marry European women and bring them over to the colony
- However in general, fur trade society was tolerant of racial and cultural differences

Change comes to the Red River Settlement

1860-1870

#1: New arrivals bring tension

- New colonists from Canada West began to settle in the Red River Valley due to population pressure and loss of good farmland
- Most of these colonists were Protestant and members of the **Orange Order**, a violent anti-French, anti-Catholic movement
- Their arrival in the region brought racial tension
 - Showed prejudice towards Metis who they viewed as inferior due to their bicultural heritage

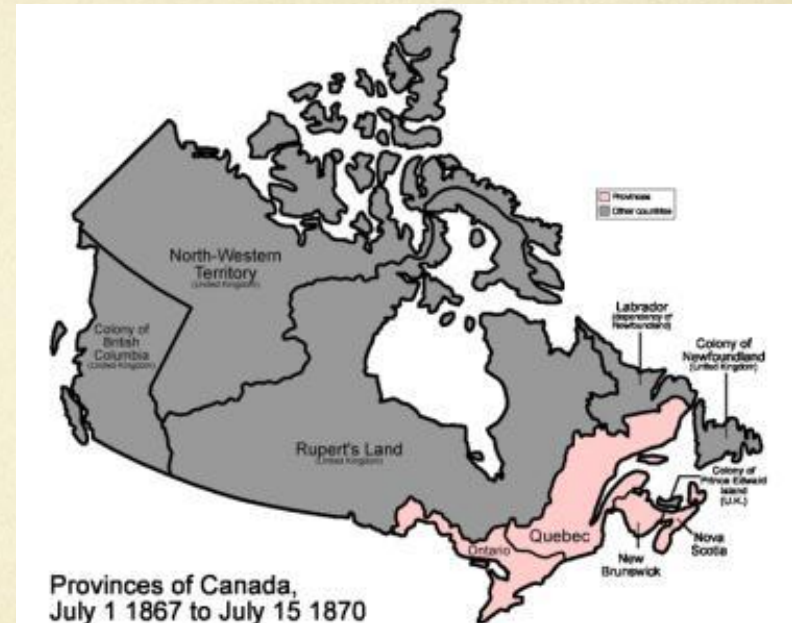
John Christian Schultz

- Member of the Orange Order
- Created the **Canadian Party** and hoped to gain political control of the colony
- Produced the only newspaper in the colony, the *Nor'Wester*
 - He used this newspaper to promote hatred of Metis



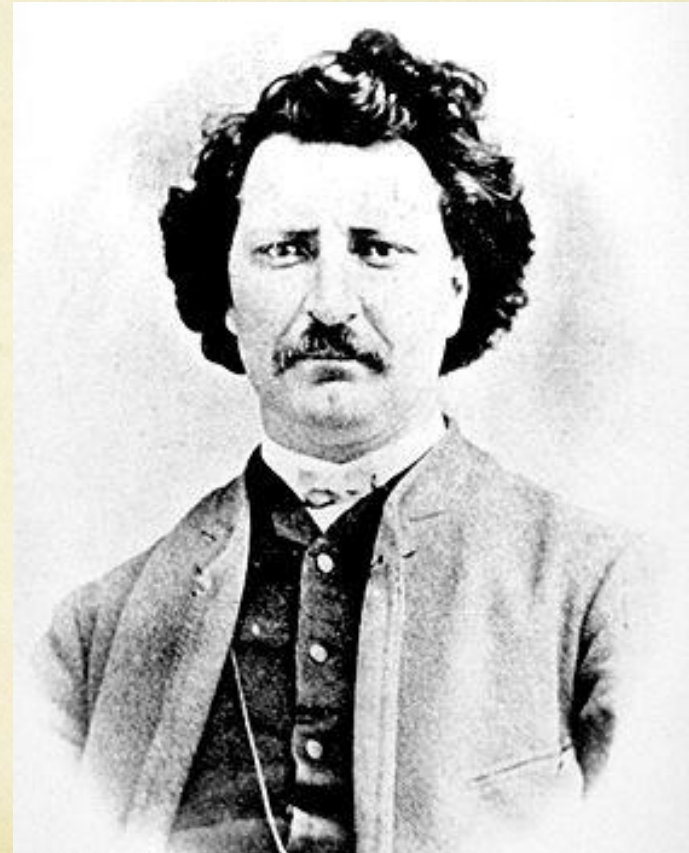
#2: Canada buys Rupert's Land

- With business declining, the HBC agreed to sell Rupert's Land to Canada in 1869, without consulting those who lived there
- Canadian government surveyors came to the Red River before the official transfer
 - Red River settlers and HBC employees had ownership to the land
 - Metis believed they owned land they had cleared and farmed, but they had no “official” ownership under the eyes of the Canadian government
 - Disregarded the seigneurial system of land ownership



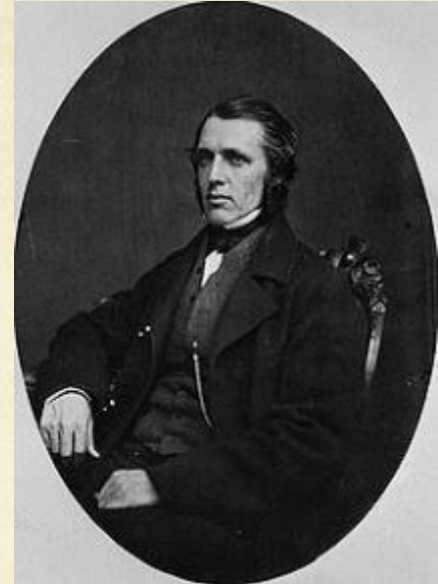
Standing up for Metis rights

- The Metis felt their rights were being ignored
- **Louis Riel** organized a group of Metis to stop the surveying
- In October 1869, Riel formed the **National Metis Committee** – an organization that would support and defend Metis rights in the Red River Valley to the Canadian government
 - Created the **Metis List of Rights**



Who governs the region?

- John A. Macdonald appointed **William McDougall** as Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories
- Riel and the Metis feared that once McDougall, a strong anti-French supporter, had control of the area, he would give governing power to the Canadian Party
- Riel set up a **provisional government** – a temporary government that would maintain order in the region as it was being transferred over and give the people of Red River the power to negotiate entrance into Confederation



- When McDougall tried to enter the region, the National Metis Committee told him he was not welcome and should return to Ottawa – they would govern the region
- McDougall ignored this demand, entered the region, proclaimed himself governor, then quickly fled
 - He did this without the support of Macdonald, who had told him to take no action until issues in the region could be resolved
- Riel and Committee members occupied Fort Garry (headquarters of HBC in the Red River) and seized ammunition and weapons
 - Canadian Party had armed themselves to attack the Metis
 - Riel and his supporters had no intention of rebelling against Canada – they just wanted to ensure the rights of the people in the Red River Valley would be retained

How could the Metis govern if Canada owns the region?

- McDougall had made a crucial mistake: by proclaiming himself governor of the North-West Territories before it was officially owned by Canada, HBC power and authority in the region ended
- However, since McDougall fled soon after this proclamation, there was no official Canadian government presence in the region
- Thus, Riel's provisional government was now in fact the legal government of the area
 - They had the right to negotiate with the Canadian government
 - Any action in opposition to their authority would be considered against the law = treason

Riel takes action

- December 1869 – Riel leads a party of Metis to arrest John Schultz and 48 Canadian Party members; taken to Fort Garry
- Macdonald refuses to negotiate with Riel and sends a HBC official to negotiate
- In the meantime, Schultz and some of his men escaped from Fort Garry and were plotting to free the other prisoners



Escalating violence

- Before these men can free any more prisoners, they clash with the Metis and are arrested again
- One of these men is **Thomas Scott**
 - In prison, he espouses anti-Metis views, verbally and physically abuses his guards, and threatens the life of Riel
- Scott was placed on trial for treason and found guilty
- He was executed by firing squad on March 4, 1870



Manitoba Act, 1870

- A delegation of Metis and Canadian Party members head to Ottawa to negotiate the creation of the province of Manitoba
- John Christian Schultz was already in Ontario, describing the death of Thomas Scott and promoting anti-Metis sentiments
- This tainted negotiations with Macdonald and the Canadian government
 - Macdonald refuses to allow provincial control of lands
 - Grant 200,000 hectares of land for the Metis



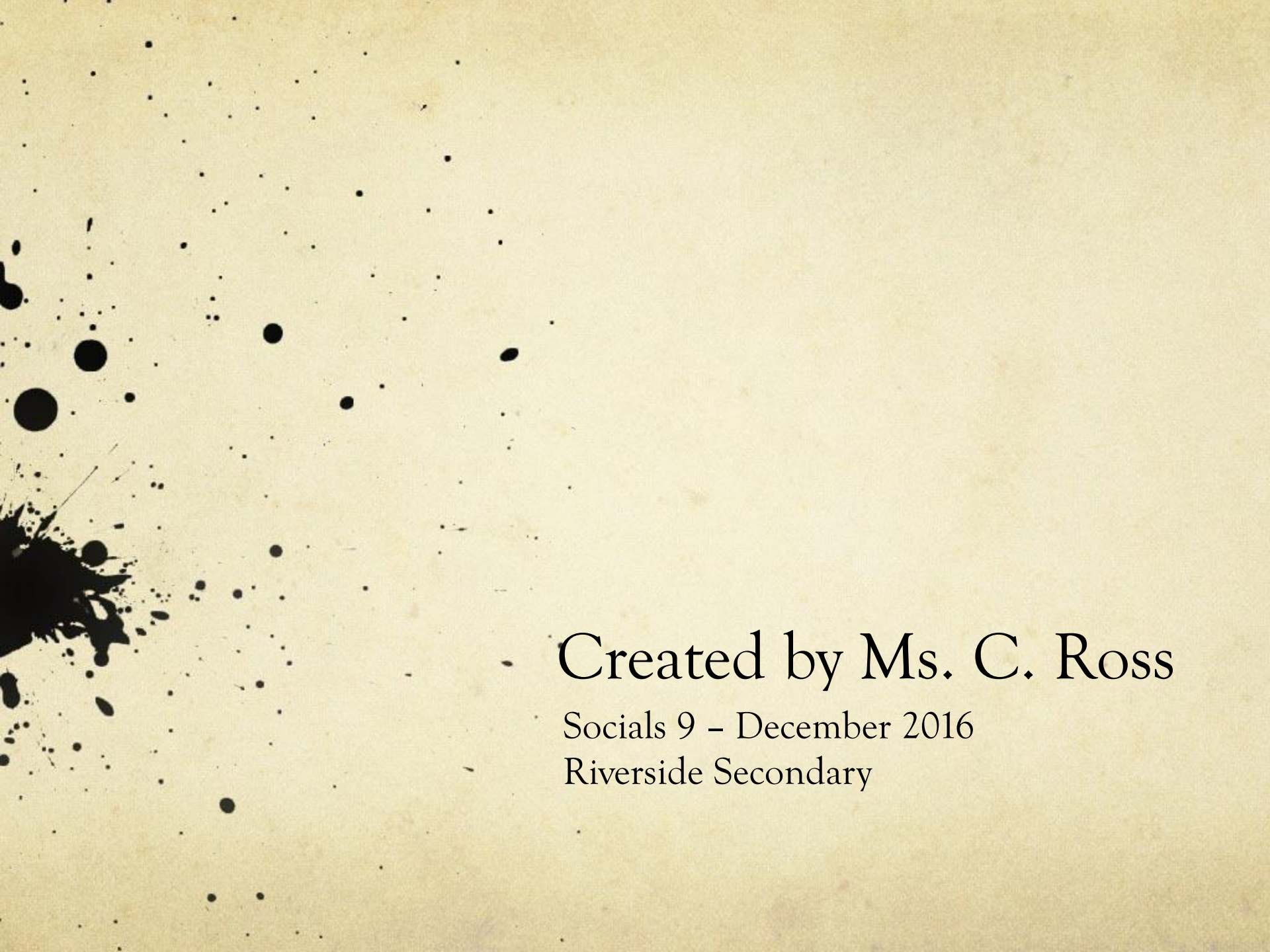
- There are growing cries for Macdonald to respond to the violence in the Red River Valley
- He sends 1200 militia, under the command of Colonel Wolseley to keep the peace in the region until power has been transferred to the provincial government
 - Riel and the provisional government could no longer be the legitimate government
- Riel, fearing for his life, flees to the US and the Metis are now without their leader



Were the events in the Red River Valley between 1869 and 1870 a rebellion or a resistance?

Historically, this time period has been known as the **Red River Rebellion** (so named in the first version the *Horizons* textbook). However, revisionist history now describes it as the **Red River Resistance** (so named in the 2nd version of this textbook).

What do you think is the appropriate description for these events in our history?



Created by Ms. C. Ross

Socials 9 – December 2016

Riverside Secondary