

The Métis

Large population of Métis settled in Red River in 1840.

The Métis culture was unique: they spoke Michif and their economy consisted of fur trading, farming, and hunting. They were fur traders, trappers, and excellent buffalo hunters.

Rupert's Land was purchased by Canada in 1869. Métis were uncertain about their future; they were concerned about being assimilated and not having places to live or farm.

New colonists arrived to settle in Red River. Lord Selkirk ordered the Pemmican Proclamation, which restricted Métis from exporting their pemmican from the area.

Red River Resistance: Métis established Provisional Government with Louis Riel as leader. Created a Bill of Rights to protect their own interests.

Manitoba became a province in 1870 with its own provincial government.

Second Métis Uprising: Métis faced a number of challenges to their way of life, wanted to govern themselves.

Northeast Rebellions: Métis fought against NWMP and soldiers. Many died after three days of fighting.

Louis Riel stood trial accused of treason. He was sentenced to death and hanged in Regina, Sask.