


2020-01-14

Angelina Pereira

Timeline of the North-West Rebellion

Date	Event
Summer-1884	Return of Riel
	After being exiled, Riel fled to Montana for a new life with his family and became a teacher. In 1884 Dumont and three others went to Montana to persuade him to come back and fight for the rights of the Métis. He told him a sad story and that was all he needed to convince Riel.
March 8-1885	Métis Bill of Rights
	In the fall of 1884, Riel made a petition and got the aboriginals to sign it. He presented the revolutionary bill of rights on March 8, 1885. It had ten points to it, some being proof that they owned the land where they lived and a voice in the government. The government promised to take action but never did, so Riel had to make his own government and arm his followers in hopes to force them into taking action, which lost him the support of a lot of people.
March 25-1885	Canada's mobilization of troops
	There were only a few hundred full-time troops in Canada at this time, but the government had to act fast. On March 25, 1885, militia mobilization began. With the help of William Van Horne, they were able to make it to Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan by April 10.
March 26-1885	Battle at Duck Lake
	The Métis occupied Duck Lake, expecting some sort of police intervention, but didn't know that a whole bunch of federal troops were coming from the east. On March 26, 1885, about 100 North-West Mounted Police and armed volunteers led by Leif Crozier, approached Duck Lake. They were greeted by a large group of Métis and First Nations. Unable to negotiate, the NWMP opened fire. This ended with the NWMP retreating after

	loosing nine volunteers and three officers while the rebels only lost 5 Métis and one first nation.
April 24-1885	Battle of Fish Creek
	General Middleton's plan at first was to send all his troops north from Qu'Appelle to Batoche, but after recent disasters at Frog Lake and Battleford, he had to send a large group of his troops to relieve Battleford. Middleton set off to Batoche on April 23. They had 900 hundred men and 2 artillery batteries which were split into two groups so they can have one group for both sides of the river. Meanwhile, there was indecision on the Métis side, Riel wanted to focus on defending Batoche while Dumont preferred a more forward position. Dumont won and they set up an ambush at Tourond's Coulee. When Middleton's scouts came the rebels attacked and Middleton's men struggled to touch the rebels. By the end, both decided to pull back and the Métis kept their ground while Middleton's men backed off.
May 9-1885	Battle of Batoche
	Because Colonel Otter was set back from an unsuccessful attack, Middleton waited 2 weeks before setting off to Batoche. On May 9 he set off. his troops attacked the defences on the southern end of Batoche. After a short but intense fight, Middleton kept his troops a fair distance back from the enemies. After not making headway against the enemy, his troops built a camp south of Batoche. After days of fighting, two Colonels took action without order and led a bunch of militia units in a charge. The rebels, weakened, were easily overrun. About an eighth of Middleton's force died as well as about 51 Métis. On May 15, Riel surrendered while Dumont fled to Montana.
June 3-1885	The final shots
	The rebellion fired their last shots on June 3, at Loon Lake where some soldiers under North-West Mounted Policeman Sam Steele wandered and some of the Cree who had recently retreated after a different battle. All of Steele's men made it out alive but four indigenous warriors died.
July 2-1885	The surrender of Big Bear.
	A lot of the Battleford area bands had surrendered and the only important leader left was Big Bear. The search for Big Bear was a

	failure and Middleton's troops were never able to find him. The Cree at Frog Lake let their prisoners free on June 21 and Big Bear surrendered to the NWMP on July 2.
November 16-1885	The hanging of Louis Riel
	Riel's execution was set back 3 times so that they can allow appeals to higher courts and to give Riel a full medical exam for his claimed insanity. After the appeals failed and the medical report said he was sane, they decided to let the law take its course. Riel was hanged in Regina, November 16, in 1885. This caused a lot of confusion in Quebec, although they wanted to rebel, they didn't want execution.
	

Bibliography:

Beal, Bob, and Rod Macleod. "North-West Rebellion." *North-West Rebellion | The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 7 Feb. 2006, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/north-west-rebellion>.

Picture+Site: "Shifting Riel-ity: The 1885 North-West Rebellion." *Shifting Riel-ity: The 1885 North-West Rebellion - Canada's History*, <https://www.canadahistory.ca/explore/first-nations-inuit-metis/shifting-riel-ity-the-1885-north-west-rebellion#2>.