

North-West Rebellion

Timeline



Canada's Mobilization of Troops

In Ottawa the government was quickly told about the rebellion that could take place. So even before the first battle the Government started to mobilize their troops. William Van Horne the railway manager arranged for the soldiers to be transported in between the unfinished gaps of the railway. Allowing the troops to reach Saskatchewan in less than a month. In the end creating an army of 4,700 troops.



Return of Riel

After the execution of Thomas Scott Louis Riel fled to the United States to avoid prosecution. But in 1884 Louis Riel was asked by Gabriel Dumont to return to Canada and help the Metis. The Metis were facing the same problems once again that Louis Riel was working on before he fled. Having their land overcome by settlers. When Louis Riel first returned, he had not thought of an armed rebellion he wanted to make/try peaceful ways first. So, the Metis launched a petition but by 1885 Ottawa had done nothing, so Louis Riel became tired of waiting and the rebellion began.



Battle of Fish Creek

General Middleton decided to split up his forces and move up both banks of the South Saskatchewan River. The Metis Commander Gabriel Dumont launched an ambush along Fish Creek. The Metis started opening fire at the Canadian infantry. The Canadian force tried to charge the Metis several times but were unsuccessful because of the rifle fire. Once General Middleton brought forward artillery to support his attack the Metis and aboriginal peoples withdrew from the attack. Because they were worried the forces from across the river would come and encircle them.



Battle at Duck Lake

The battle at Duck Lake was the first battle of the Northwest rebellion the battle itself was not planned and was partially by accident. The Metis were gathering supplies from Duck Lake when the Canadian Mounted Police showed up. The police were highly outnumbered, so they retreated. Police superintendent Leif Crozier decided to not wait for reinforcements and attack. The Metis gathered more people and once again outnumbered the police. Which ended in a bad loss for the Canadian Police



The surrender of Big Bear

Big Bear leader of the Cree was one of the groups of Aboriginal people that decided to follow Louis Riel into battle. On June 3 General Middleton arrived at Fort Pitt in search of Big Bear who tried to escape by fleeing into swampy terrain. The police eventually caught up and captured 150 people at Loon Lake. The Cree escaped but eventually turned themselves in. Big Bear managed to slip by the police but after walking awhile turned himself in.



Battle of Batoche

General Middleton launched an attack on around 350 Metis and first nations people on the land of Batoche. He began to attack with support from a steamboat named Northcote carrying riflemen to come help with the attack. Unfortunately, the Metis were able to lower a ferry cable across the river preventing the steamboat from helping.

Middleton's plan was to wait until the Metis ran out of ammunition. He drew them North to a were a larger force was waiting to be signaled by his guns which could not be heard over the wind. Even though the fight was delayed it was over a few minutes later with the Metis retreating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J90mW28Q8Rw>



The Hanging of Louis Riel

When Louis Riel was captured, he was accused of high treason. Riel was sentenced to hang on September 18th. His execution was postponed until October 16th because of politics. John A. Macdonald was in a difficult position. If Riel was not hanged English speaking Canada would be angered if he did hang Riel French speaking Canada would be angered. The decision was eventually made, and Riel would be hung on November 16, 1885.

Return of Riel

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Duck Lake

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Canada's Mobilization of Troops

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