

1885 North West Rebellion

Bawan Arif

Riels Return

- In 1884 the Metis brought the leader of the Red River Rebellion Louis Riel to Canada. Louis urged the region to press their case against John A Macdonald and the conservative government. Riel prepared a petition and tried to get Metis to sign. On March 8th, 1885 Riel passed the 10-point Revolutionary Bill of Rights. The Metis asserted the rights to their farms. The Metis also made a lot of other demands. On March 18th, 1885, a force of Metis formed a government and they demanded that the nearby hudsons bay company surrendered. Riel was named president of the rebel government and he named metis as hunter.



Battle at Duck Lake

- Not knowing federal troops were coming the Metis took over Duck Lake. On March 26, 1885 about 100 north west mountain police moved towards Duck Lake under the command of Lief Crozier. The Metis met them on the Carlton Trail. Dumont's brother engaged on Crozier and Joe McKay for negotiations however this was a delay tactic rebel fighters started to surround the NWMP. A battle started because McKay killed the negotiator.



Battle of Fish Creek

- General Middleton had a plan for his troops he wanted them to march north from the railway at Qu'Appelle to Batoche. He sent a large group led by lieutenant Colonel. Middleton set off on a 50-mile march to Batoche. He took about 900 men. The Metis were determined to fight. Riel wanted to concentrate all efforts on defending batoche. As Middleton troops approached the coulee the rebels opened fire. It took all day for Middleton to get his troops across the river. By the time they got there both commanders already pulled back.



Canada Mobilizes Troops

- The government of Ottawa reaction was swift and clear. Even before Duck Lake the government already mobilized his forces. Van Horn the railway manager arranged troops to be transported across the gaps in the new railway. By April 10th almost 3 thousand troops had been transported west. Another 1700 troops came from the west.



Battle of Batoche

- On May 9th Middleton's forces attacked the defense at the southern end of Batoche settlement. But the Metis lowered the ferry cable incapacitating the boat. Middleton kept the attackers at a distance from the enemies. For the next couple days troops attacked the Metis with almost no success. On May 12th two colonels led military units in a charge. The rebels short of ammo lost and surrendered within 3 days.



THE CAPTURE OF BATOCHÉ

The Final Shots

- In May pound maker and several battle ford tribes surrendered to general Middleton by the end of May Big Bear was the only important rebel. For several weeks Middletons soldiers pursued Big Bear. But they couldn't find him. On July 2nd Big Bear surrendered to the police.

