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The Red River Resistance

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- 1868: **Louis Riel**, a Métis lawyer educated in Montreal returns to the area. Riel is fluent in French, English and is an excellent orator.
- 1869: Tensions were rising in Red River:
 - Settlers were angry with the HBC for selling Rupert's Land without consulting them.
 - They felt surveyors were ignoring their rights & wondered if the Canadian government was trying to take away their land.
- Riel first organized Métis to observe the surveyors. He then formed the **National Métis Committee** to fight for Métis rights.

The Provisional Government

- John A. Macdonald appoints **William McDougall** as Lt. Gov. of the NWT. The Métis met the new governor and told him he wasn't welcome, which he ignores.
- Several Métis occupied Fort Garry and seized the munitions there. Riel & his supporters had no intention of rebelling against the government, they just wanted to protect their rights.
- Riel sets up a provisional government to maintain order and to negotiate with Canada.
- Riel feared that McDougall, who was known to be strongly anti-French, would give all power to the Orange Order's Canadian Party.
- McDougall crossed the border and proclaimed himself governor of the NWT before quickly returning to the USA. This ended HBC authority in the area but because McDougall was in the USA authority didn't transfer to Canada.
- McDougall's mistake made Riel's provisional government the legal government of the area.

Riel Takes Action

- Riel was worried because the Canadian Party was armed and prepared to attack the Métis.
- Dec. 1869: Riel led a party of armed Métis and arrested Shultz and 48 of his followers and confined them in Fort Garry.
- The Métis provisional government sent a delegation to Ottawa to negotiate the creation of the province of Manitoba.
- Shultz had escaped from Ft. Garry and after a failed attempt to free the other prisoners he traveled to Ontario.
- **Thomas Scott**, a belligerent member of the Canadian Party was captured. While in prison Scott abused his guards and repeatedly threatened Riel.
- March 1870: Scott was tried for his actions & executed by firing squad. Schultz had whipped up anti-Métis hysteria in Ontario, making Scott appear a martyr murdered by Riel.

Manitoba is created

- Late April: The government agreed to the terms for Manitoba's admission to Confederation. The Métis received a grant of 200,000 hectares of land.
- May 12, 1870: Manitoba's admission was passed by the House of Commons.
- Macdonald sent a force of 1200 militia from Ontario to Winnipeg to keep the peace. Many of these "peacekeepers" were in the Orange Order.
- Riel and his followers were not to be treated as members of a legitimate government.
- Fearing for his life, Riel fled the area. The Canadian government banished Riel and he spent the next 15 years in the United States.