

“One Dominion from Sea to Sea”
How BC Became Canadian



Okanagan College

10 July 2018

Review

**“Hewers of Wood and
Drawers of Water”**

**Liberal Reciprocity, 1854-66
vs Conservative
Protectionist Tariffs**

Acquisition of the N.W., 1870

**Alabama Claims - US claims
on Canada for damages
incurred by Confederate
CSS Alabama during war**



1. “Manifest Destiny”
2. “All-Red Route”
3. N.W. “Fertile Belt”
4. British Columbia

Negotiations in Washington, 1870

**US Position - Compensation
for *Alabama* claims; Access
to Canadian fisheries w/o
Reciprocity.**

**British Position - Safe and
honourable withdrawal
from North America.**

**Canadian Position - Renewal
of Reciprocity,
Compensation for Fenian
Raids**

**“If things go well my share
of the kudos will be but
small, and if anything goes
wrong I will be made the
scapegoat at all events so
far as Canada is
concerned.”**

John A. Macdonald, 1871.

“I will be made the scapegoat”:

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

“The Americans, like the British, knew that a general agreement could always be reached at the expense of Canadian interests.”

***Alabama Claims* - “Canadians made to pay for imp’l policy in the Civil War.”**

John A. Macdonald: “if anything goes wrong I will be made the scapegoat...”

On the Canadian arrest of 16 US fishing vessels in 1870: “The Canadian disposition to use American tactics to bargain with Americans was unwise, particularly when the Canadian action was really based on an assumption of British support.”

Morton, *The Critical Years*, pg. 251.

**The Treaty of
Washington
commissioners in
1871. Prime Minister
John A. Macdonald
is third from the left.
This was the first
international
conference in which
a Canadian leader
participated.**



The Settlement of 1871

Recognition of Canada's borders

- San Juan Islands to US

**Withdrawal of British garrisons
from central Canada by 1871**

**No Reciprocity or discussion of
Fenian claims**

- Canadian claims paid by UK

***Alabama* Comp. - \$15.5 million**

**US gains access to Canadian
fisheries**

- Nova Scotia public opinion?

With the withdrawal of British military power from the interior of the continent, Canada ceased to be a threat to the United States and was no longer an irritant in British-American relations. After 1871, Canada could be independent in America because it could not be a rival of the United States.

John A. Macdonald's 1871 "Victory"

**Concessions on the Inshore
Fisheries; no Reciprocity
- Liberals and Nova Scotia?**

Fenian Claims - Paid by Britain

**Recognition of Canada's
borders - US "Manifest
Destiny" averted...for now.**

***Britain to guarantee Canadian
loans for the construction of a
transcontinental railroad
- "his delight was almost
ludicrous."***



The Red River Rebellion

Act for Temporary Gov't, 1869

- Road from Lake of Woods**
- Railway route survey**
- Lt. Gov. Wm. McDougall**

Métis of Red River Colony

- Feared loss of land tenure**
- River lots vs. Cdn townships**
- Louis Riel, 25 Years Old**
- Blocked Survey & McDougall**

Upper Ft. Garry, Nov. 1869

- Provisional Gov't, Bill of Rights**





Louis Riel (seated directly in the centre) with his council, 1870. Riel and his council's resistance to Canada's attempted seizure of the Red River led to the Manitoba Act of 1870, which brought Manitoba into Confederation as the first new province.

Manitoba: “Postage Stamp” Province

Manitoba Act, May 1870

- MB to enter Confed. as Province, not a Territory**
- 35,000 sq. km “Postage Stamp”**

French and English language

- Prot. and RC school systems**
- 600,000 ha reserved for Métis**

Nature of Canadian Federalism

- Pressured by dictatorial Riel?**
- Fr.-Eng. Biculturalism? French to be guaranteed in Quebec only, or in Canada as a whole?**



The Wolseley Expedition

Canadian Party, *Nor'Wester*

- John Schultz's failed attack on Fort Garry**
- 65 "Canada First" prisoners**

Thomas Scott, Ont. Orangeman

- A *very* obnoxious prisoner**
- Executed 4 March 1870**

Lt. Col. Garnet Wolseley

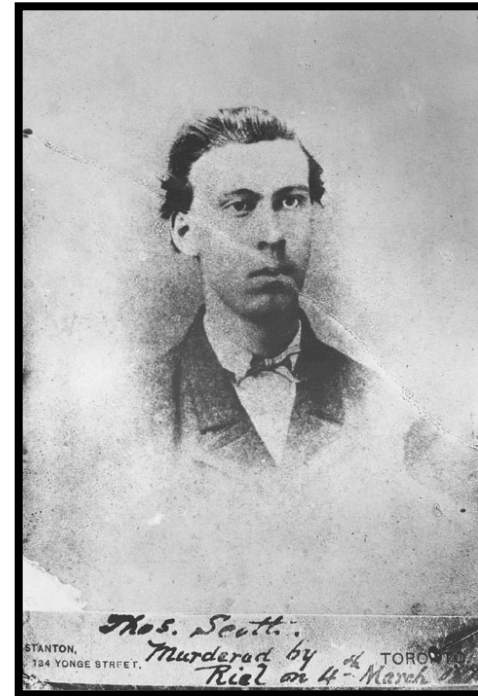
- British regulars - 1870**
- Ont. Orangemen - Boyne R.**

Louis Riel flees to U.S. - Hero?



"All Sir Garnet." Admiration for Wolseley was so great that he inspired popular culture. At the time, if things were going well, it was "All Sir Garnet."

It would be a gross injustice to the loyal inhabitants of Red River, humiliating to our national honour, and contrary to all British traditions for our Government to receive, negotiate or meet with the emissaries of those who have robbed, imprisoned and murdered loyal Canadians, whose only fault was zeal for British institutions, whose only crime was devotion to the old flag.



Thomas Scott, executed March 4, 1870.

The Scott Memorial Hall in Winnipeg was erected in his memory in Winnipeg in 1900/1902, by the provincial Grand Lodge of the Orange Order. See: "Great Day for the Orangemen," *Manitoba Free Press*, July 13, 1900.

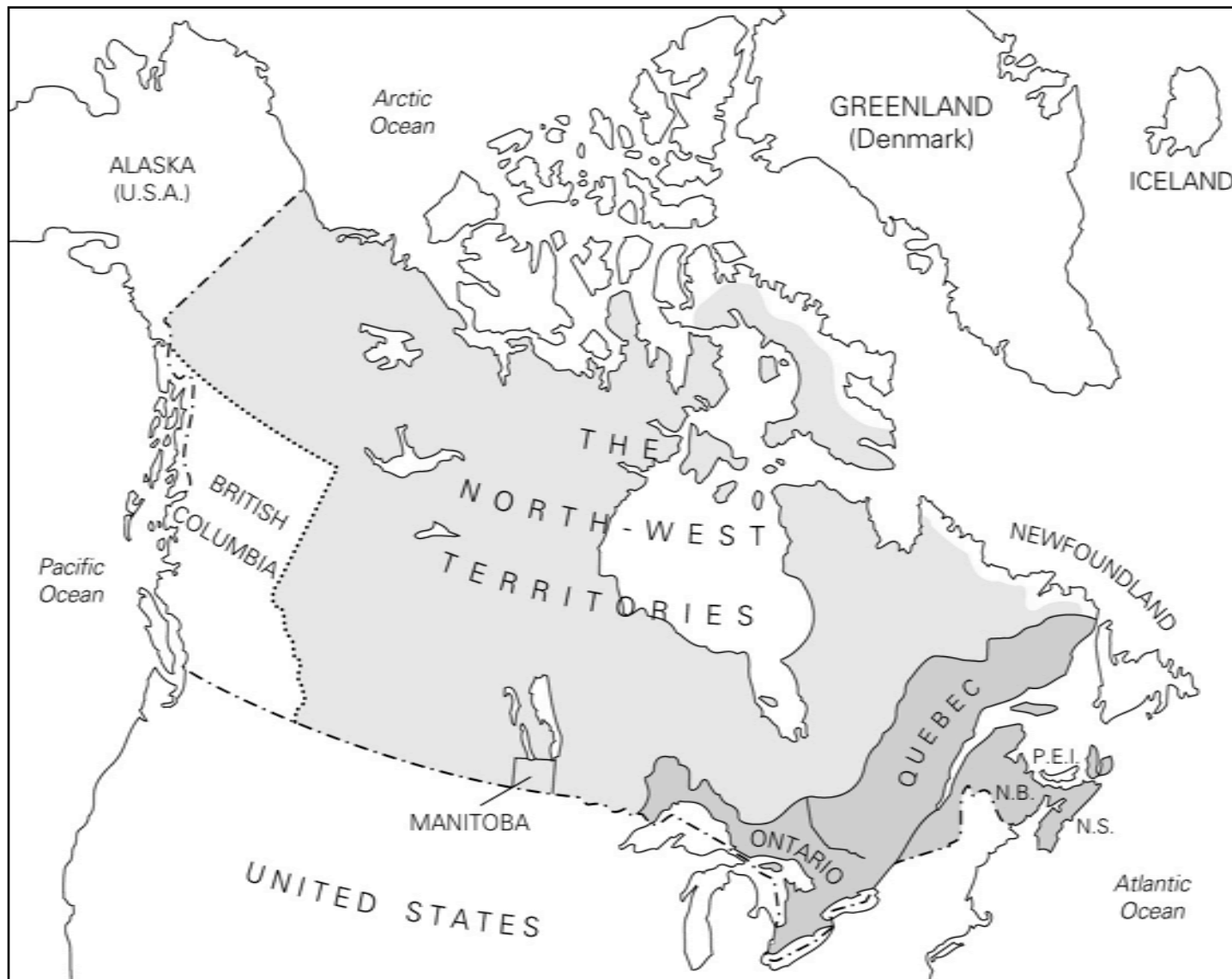
The Red River Expedition at Kakabeka Falls, 1870



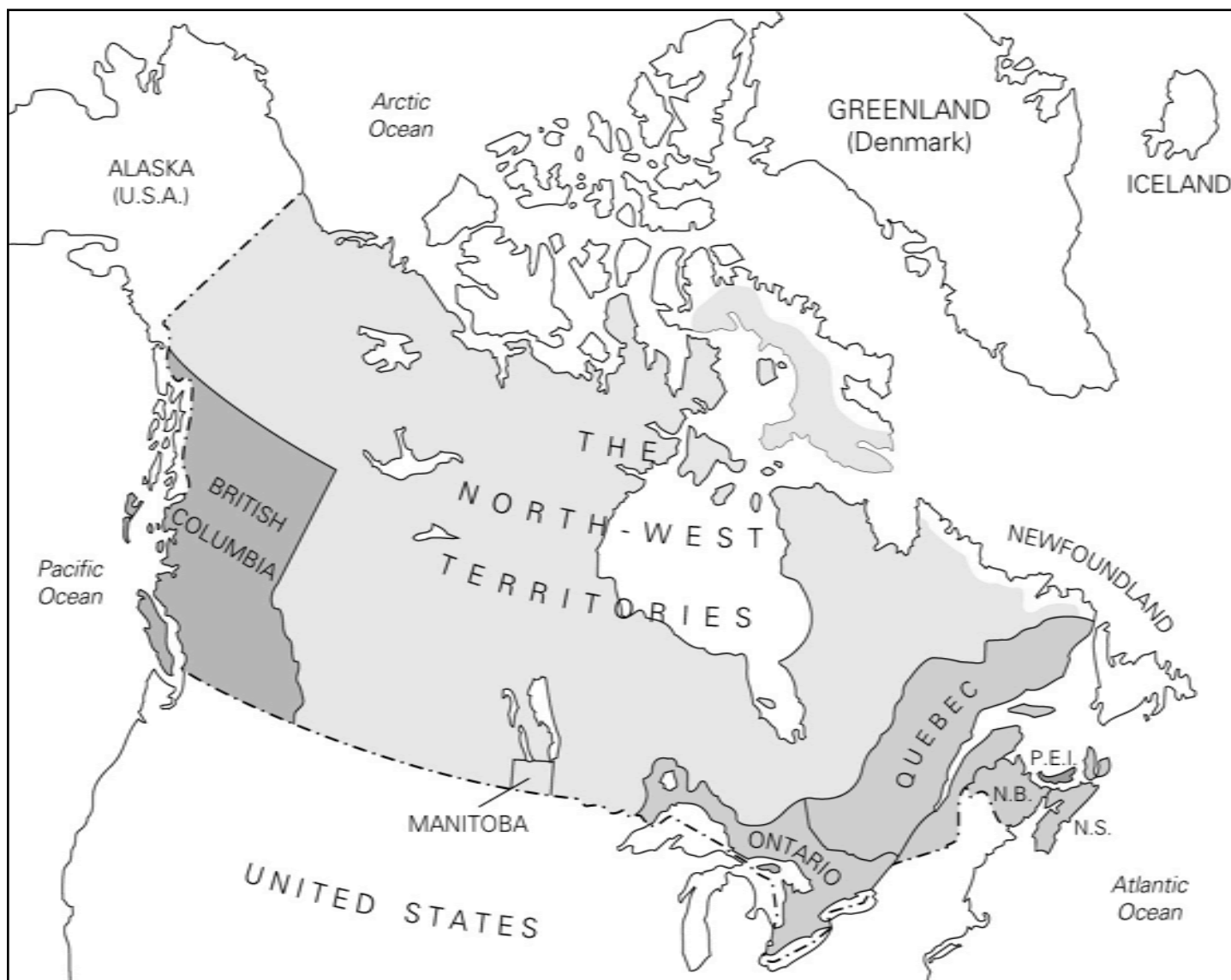
Wolseley's expedition included a force of 400 British regulars and 800 Canadian militiamen. It departed Toronto in May and reached Fort Garry on 24 August.



1867



1870



1873

BC in Confederation, 1871

**BC Delegation to Canada,
1871 - San Fran. to Ottawa
in 24 days on US railways**

Ottawa offers railway

- Begun in 2 years**
- Completion in 10**

Confederation, 20 July 1871

Pacific Scandal, 1873

- BC “The Terms, the
Whole Terms, and Nothing
But...” - “Spoilt Child”
threatens to secede**



**Liberal PM Alexander
Mackenzie, 1873-78, called his
predecessor's deal with British
Columbia “a promise that was
made to be broken.**

Decline of the Buffalo Herds

**Est. 50-60 million before
contact**

- Horses & guns, 1730

HBC/NWC Trade Posts

**- Cree-Assiniboine
Provisioners**

Métis Buffalo Hunts

**- Robes, tongues,
humps, pemmican
- American Fur Co.
- Buffalo robe trade
peaked in 1870**



Southward Retreat

*By 1879 the buffalo had disappeared
from the Canadian prairies*

The Numbered Treaties, 1871-77

1869 Canadian acquisition of Rupert's Land

- Royal Proclamation prohibits settler occupations**
- U.S. “Indian Wars” - Battle of Little Bighorn, 1876**

Treaties 1-7: “All rights, titles, and privileges” in exchange for reserves, annuities, hunting and fishing rights.

- Treaty 1: Wemyss Simpson’s “Outside Promises” to the Ojibwa, 1871 - Ignored until 1874**
- Treaty 6, 1866 (Plains Cree) - medicine and food**
- Treaty 7, 1877 (Blackfoot) - alliance or sovereignty?**

Indian Treaty Negotiations, 1870s

**Red River Expedition, 1869-70;
Canadian Geological Survey,
CPR, 1875 → Treaties 1-7**

**Terms to assist transition from
declining hunting economy**

**Treaty 1: “to maintain a school
on each reserve hereby made,
whenever the Indians of the
reserve should desire it.”**

Aboriginal initiative → clauses.

**“The great White Queen
Mother has offered us a way of
life when the buffalo are no
more... I for one will take the
hand that is offered.”**

Mistawasis (Cree).

**“The Queen mother has
offered us a new way... Surely
we Indians can learn the ways
of living that made the white
man strong and able to
vanquish all the great tribes of
the southern nations.”**

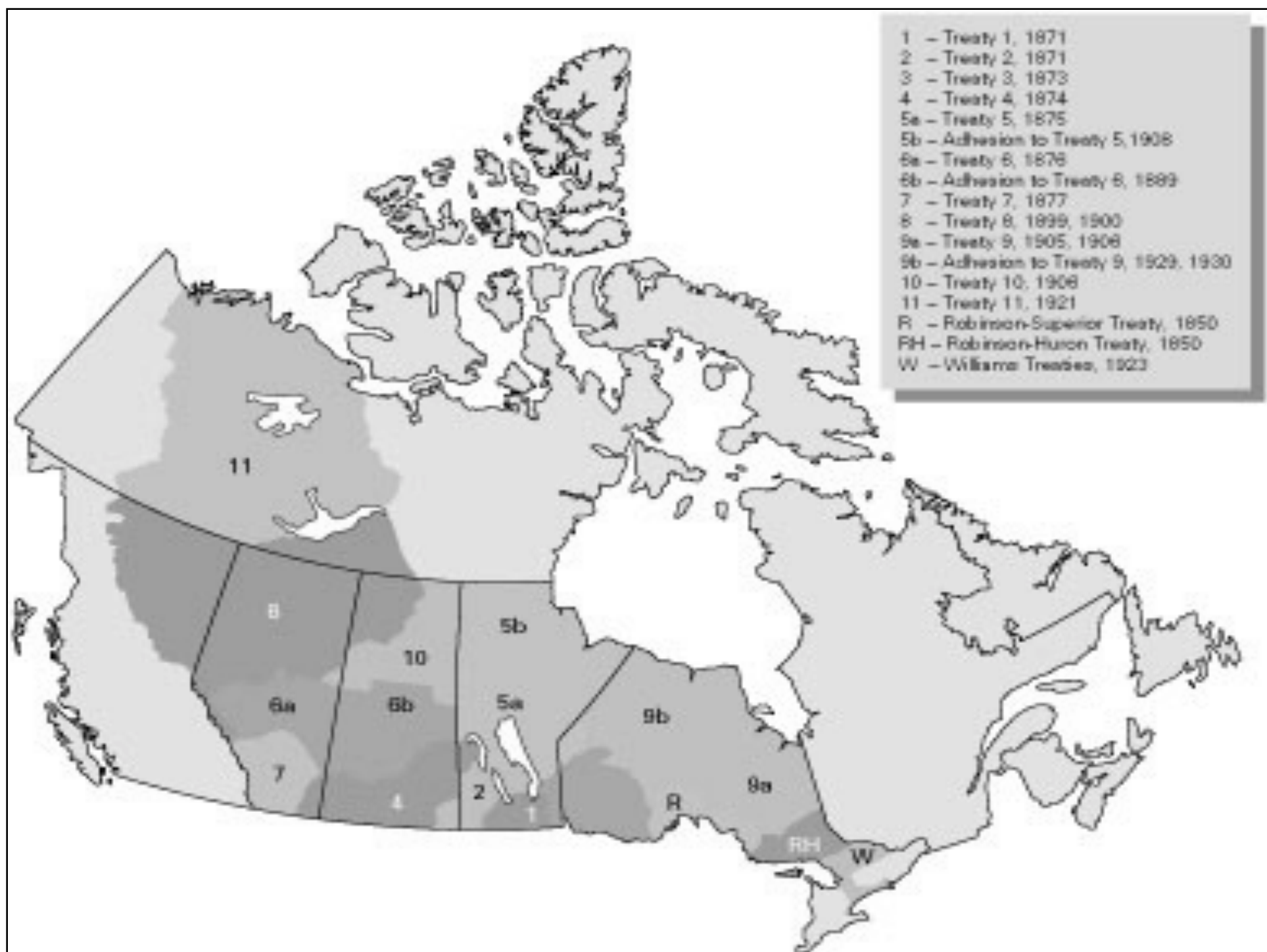
Star Blanket (Cree).

Historiography: Canada's Indian Treaties

G.F.G. Stanley (1936): “On the whole, Canada has followed the tradition of the Imperial Government in its relations with native tribes, and has endeavoured to deal fairly with her aboriginal wards.

Harold Cardinal (1969): “The truth of the matter is that Canadian Indians simply got swindled. Our forefathers got taken by slick-talking, fork-tongued cheats.”

G.F.G. Stanley (1983): “The probability that promises were made to the Indians, which they remember and the Whites have forgotten, seems strong.”





Thomas Moore before and after his entrance into the Regina Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan in 1874.

Library and Archives Canada / NL-022474

We do not propose to expend large sums of money to give them food from the first day of the year to the last. We must give them enough to keep them alive; but the Indians must, under the regulations that have been sanctioned by Parliament, go to their reservations and cultivate their land. They must provide partially for their wants. And therefore, if, by accident, an Indian should starve, it is not the fault of the Government nor the wish of the Government.

**MP Hector Langevin,
House of Commons, 1886**

As Dewdney stated in his letter to PM John A. Macdonald: ‘The only effective course with the great proportion of Indian bands to adopt is one of sheer compulsion.’ Dewdney used this policy for only a few months in 1884. He found that his efforts to use the Mounted Police to break up Indian councils and to arrest Indian leaders only led to confrontations between the Cree and the police. In these confrontations the police were shown to be ineffectual because they were placed in situations in which, if the Cree had been desirous of initiating hostilities, large numbers of Mounted Police would have been massacred.

From John L. Tobias, “Canada’s Subjugation of the Plains Crees, 1879-1885.