

“One Dominion from Sea to Sea”
**Building the Canadian Pacific
Railway, Pt. 2**



Okanagan College

17 July 2018

Old Flag, Old Policy, Old Leader

1874 BC threatens secession

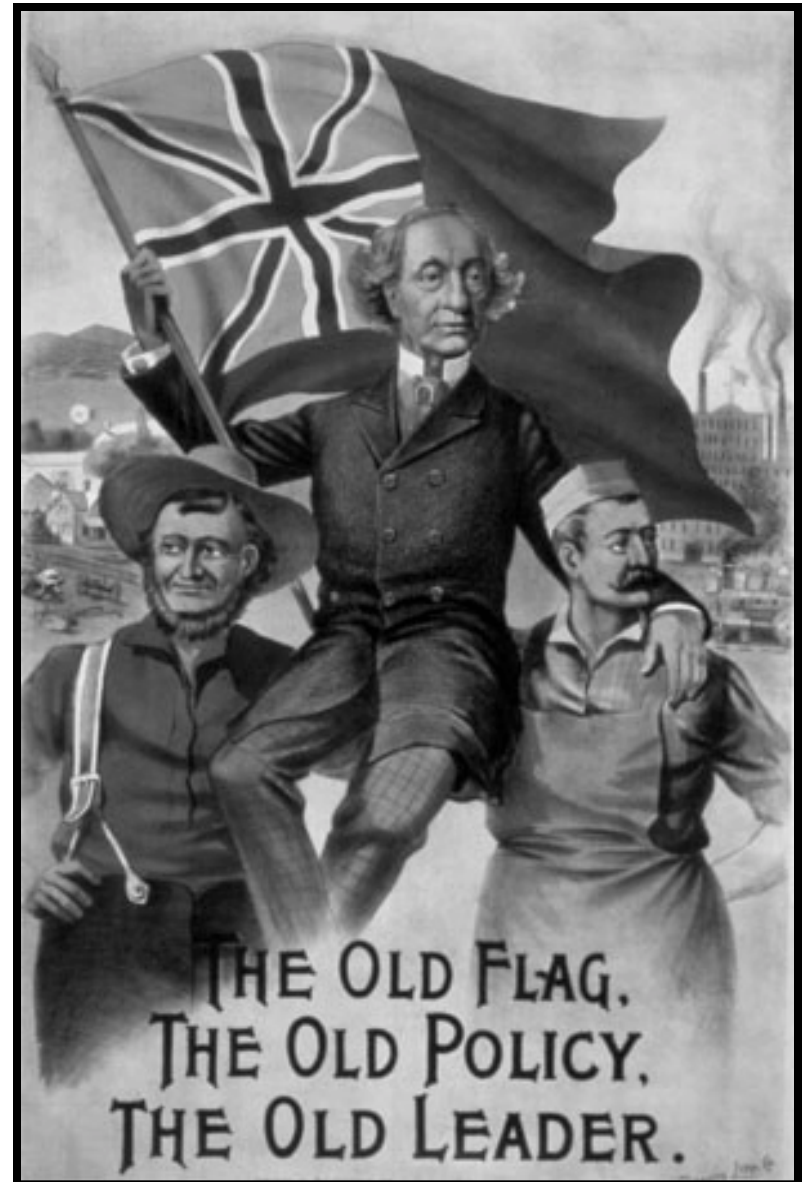
- Petition to Queen Victoria**
- Lord Dufferin visit**

1878 Conservative Victory

- Old flag, old policy...**
- “Voters prefer Sir John A. drunk to Mackenzie sober.”**

The National Policy

- 1. Tariffs = Cdn industry**
- 2. Pacific Railway - B.C.**
- 3. Opening the Prairies**



The C.P.R. Route

Sir Sandford Fleming, early 1870s

**North Sask. Riv., Yellowhead Pass
- Battleford, Edmonton**

OR Regina, Calgary, Rogers Pass

1. American Northern Pacific

2. Lethbridge coal deposits

**3. Macoun (1880) vs. Palliser
(1850s)**

4. *Land Speculators* - 40 km belt

**Battleford? Edmonton? Early
settlers about to be disappointed**



CPR Taskmaster:

Cornelius Van Horne

**Experienced American
engineer - Overseer of 5,000
workers, 1700 teams of
horses in the prairies
- 800 km prairie track / yr**

**“I eat all I can; I drink all I
can; I smoke all I can and I
don’t give a damn for
anything.”**

**Merciless: C.P.R. reaches
Calgary in August 1883**



Andrew Onderdonk

**Experienced American
engineer - CPR line in BC**

**Headquarters at Yale: “It was
hammers and drills, picks
and shovels, blasting day
and night, and work for
everybody who wanted it.”**

**Controversial importation of
6,000 Chinese workers to
overcome shortage of white
labourers in B.C.**



Chinese Railway Workers

Fraser River Gold Rush, 1858

- San Francisco
- Onderdonk imports Chinese labourers starting in 1881
- Selkirks, Fraser Canyon

15,000 Chinese workers by 1884

- Fraser Canyon, 400 km
- Est. 3 died / km
- CPR Savings: \$3.5 million

Head Tax of \$50, 1885

- To discourage settlement
- Subsequently raised to \$500



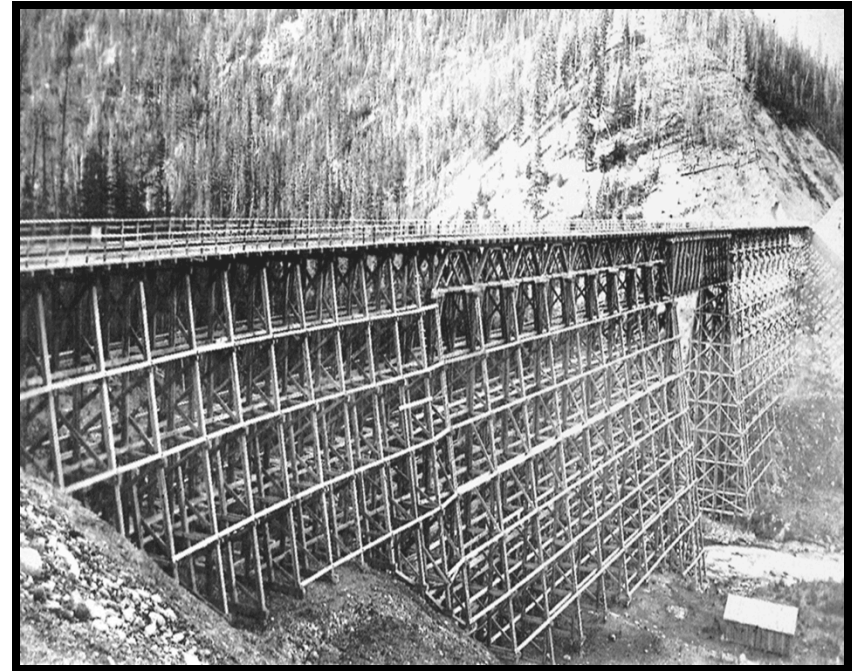
The tax certificate for Lau Shong (or Shing), 1912, for \$500, the amount required to bring in Chinese immigrants.

Soaring Construction Costs

Van Horne using best materials - “If we haven’t got enough, we’ll get more, that’s all about it.”

**Lk. Superior north shore
- Precambrian granite**

**CPR Debt, 1883: \$22.5
Million - “The day the
CPR bursts, the
Conservative party bursts
the day after.”**



**The CPR’s Mountain Creek
Bridge under construction
in the Selkirks.**



Above: CPR snowshed in the Selkirk Mountains, c. 1886. With the CPR on the verge of bankruptcy in 1885, snowsheds were often omitted to reduce costs.

Below: Canadian Orange Jull's rotary snowplough, 1884.



On the Verge of Bankruptcy

Macdonald: “You might as well ask me for Jupiter”

\$22.5 Million = Fed. Budget, 1884

Bailout = A Very Political Railway

- CPR property mortgaged**
- Conservative contractors**
- Conservative newspapers**
- Terminus as QB City (Con.)**

26 March 1885 - Another bailout?

Duck Lake - Métis vs. NWMP



A Métis house burns at Batoche, May 1885.

“Canada’s First War”
The Northwest Rebellion



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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.

Taking the West: The Métis Dispersal

Manitoba Act, 1870

- 600,000 ha reserved for Metis**
- Additional \$160 of Gov't Scrip**

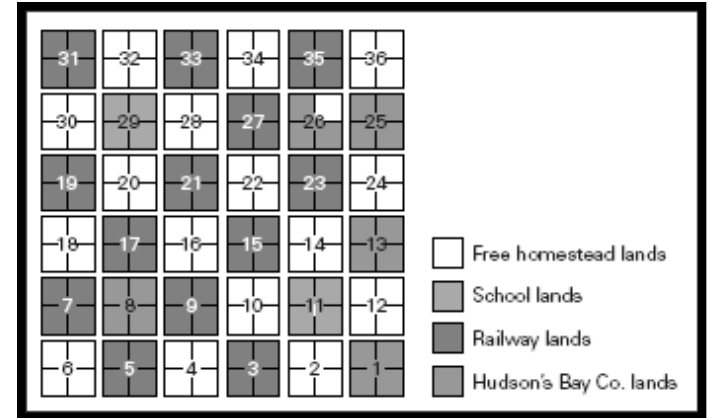
Dominion Lands Act, 1872

- Township Surveys, 36 Sections**

Ontario Land Surveyors

- Rivière aux Illets de Bois →
The Boyne River (Orangemen)**
- Thomas Scott's Murder**

Historiography: Douglas Sprague vs. Thomas Flanagan



Decline of the Buffalo Herds

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

Horses and Guns by 1730s

**HBC/NWC Interior Posts
- Cree-Assiniboine
Provisioners**

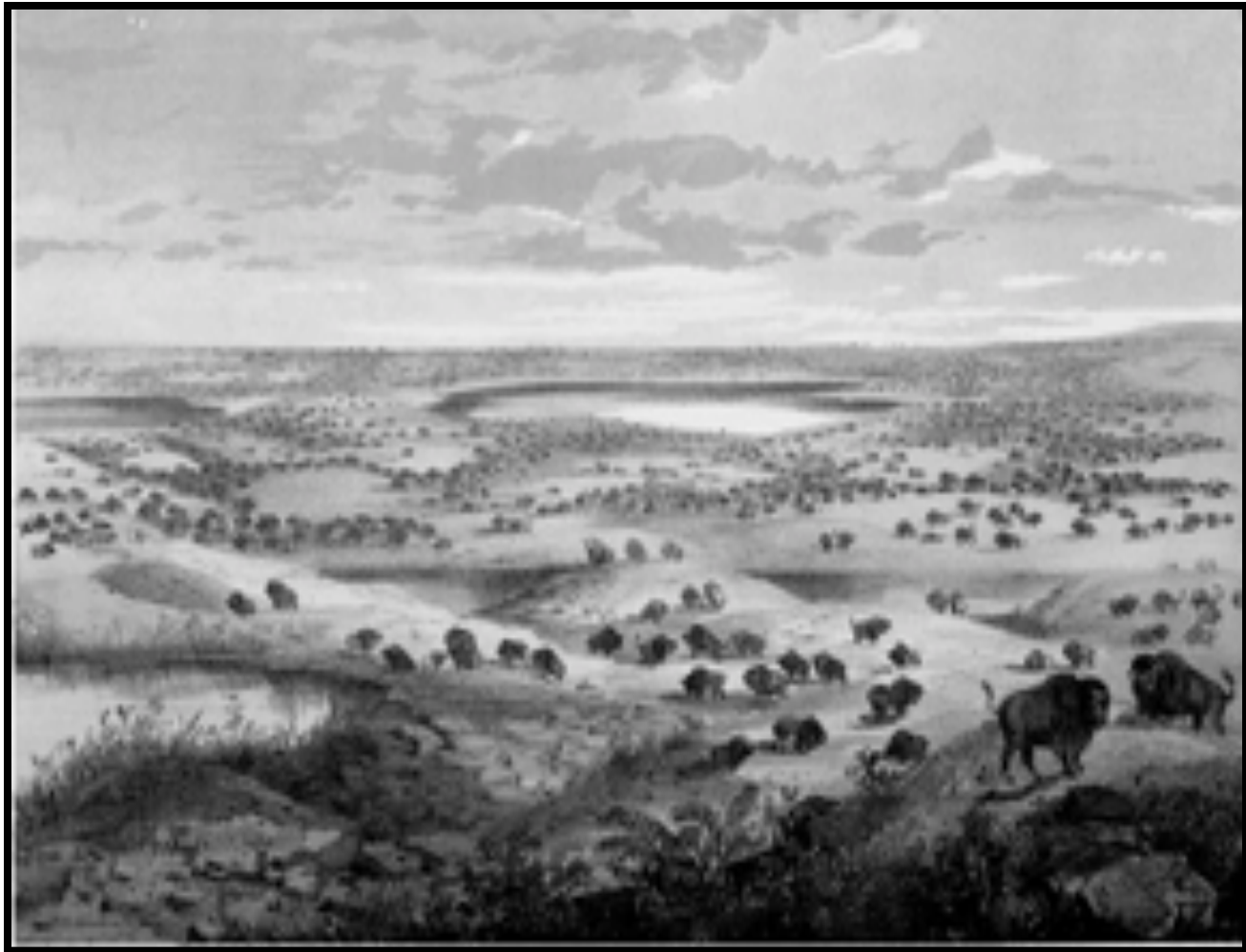
Métis Buffalo Hunts

- 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 buffalo are now so numerous that from an eminence we discovered more than we had ever seen before, at one time; and if it be not impossible to calculate the moving multitude, which darkened the whole plains, we are convinced that twenty thousand would be no exaggerated number.”
Meriwether Lewis, August 29, 1806.**

The Métis Migrations

Manitoba Métis Land Claims

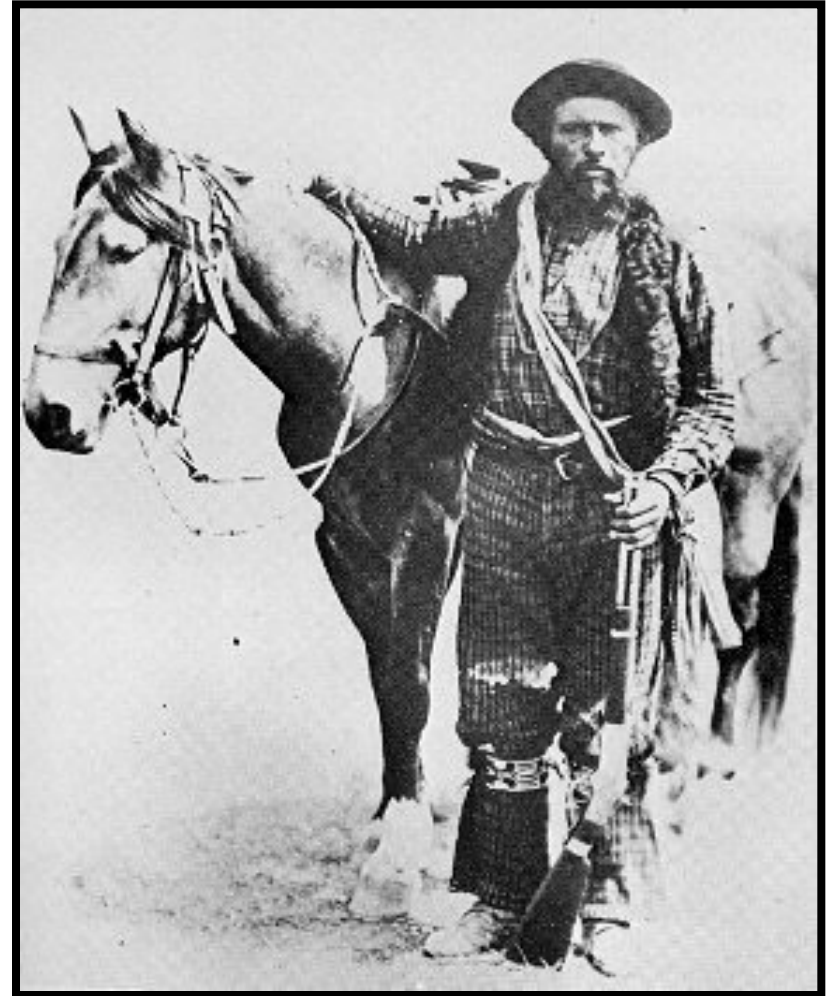
**- 84/93 rejected owing to
“insufficient cultivation”**

River Lot Surveys - Delays

\$160 Scrip - Speculation

South-Westward Retreat of the Buffalo Herds - Cypress Hills, SK

Gabriel Dumont to SK, 1872 - Clash with Big Bear



Gabriel Dumont

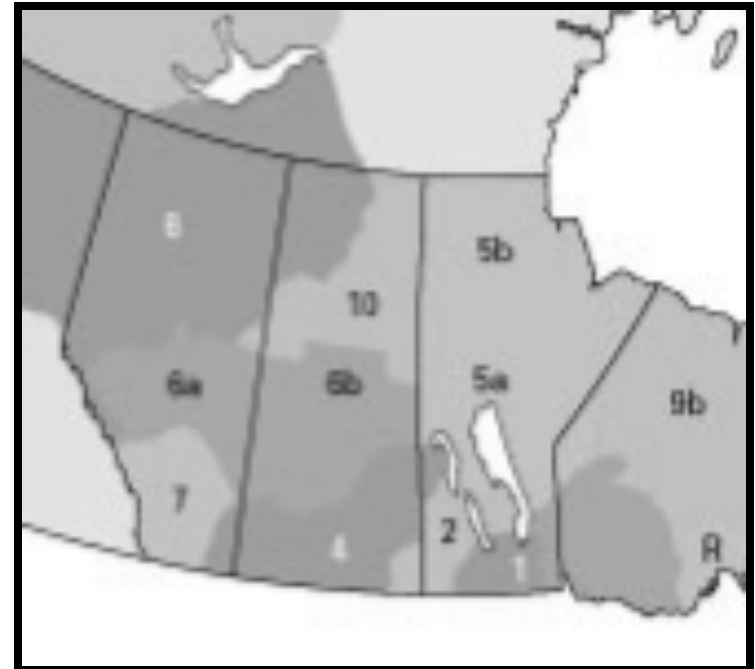
Canada's Indian Treaties, 1871-76

Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

- Black Hills Gold Rush, 1874

- U.S. 7th Cavalry destroyed

Treaties 4-6 “Extravagant Demands”: Schools, Agricultural Assistance, Famine Relief, Medicine



Plains Cree Treaty Holdouts: Big Bear, Little Pine, Payipwat

Disappearance of Canadian buffalo herds, 1879

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**

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.”

The North-West Mounted Police

Cypress Hills Massacre, 1873

- American “wolfers” crossing border, buffalo trade competition, whiskey traders**
- Assiniboine confused with Cree horse thieves - 20 killed**

NWMP est. 1873 - 150 recruits

- Marched west in 1874 - 275 mounted officers to Ft. Whoop-Up - Control Liquor**

Crowfoot, Blackfoot Chief

- Powerful - Supports NWMP**

“If left to ourselves we are gone. The whiskey brought among us by the Traders is fast killing us off and we are powerless before the evil... Our horses, Buffalo robes and other articles of trade go for whiskey, a large number of our people have killed one another and perished in various ways under the influence, and now that we hear of our Great Mother sending her soldiers into our country for our good we are glad.”

Crowfoot, Blackfoot chief, b. c. 1830, d. 1890.

The Métis Petition, 1884

Métis, South Sask. River

- St. Laurent, 4 June 1884**
- Land, Schools,
Agricultural Assistance,
Local Police Force**

Louis “David” Riel

- Exile in Montana**
- Religious heretic**
- Petition, Dec. 1884**

Ottawa - Royal Commission



Provisional Government, 1885

Batoche, 18 March 1885

**North-West Bill of Rights
- CPR southern route, 1878**

**Riel vs. Gabriel Dumont
- Seize Gov't Buildings,
Attack NWMP at Ft.
Carlton, Destroy Railway
Lines**

**1869 vs. 1885: Support from
Settlers? First Nations?
Church?**

Riel's 1885 Demands

- 1. Land grants similar to MB**
- 2. Issue of patents**
- 3. Provincial status for AB and SK**
- 4. End of Dewdney "despotism"**
- 5. Lower CPR tariffs**
- 6. Provisions for Treaty Indians**

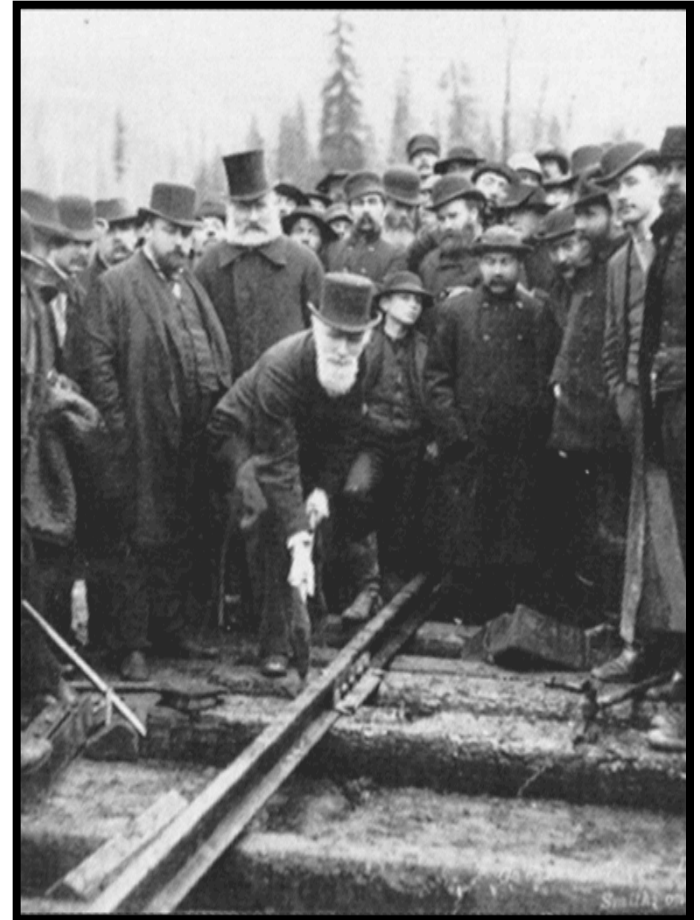
Opening Shots, March 1885

**Dumont's March on Fort
Carlton, 21 Mar.**

Battle of Duck Lake, 26 Mar.

- NWMP Detachment and
Prince Albert Volunteers**
- Sup. Leif Crozier, 12 killed,
11 wounded**
- Riel vs. Dumont on violence**

**Macdonald on a C.P.R. Bailout:
“You might as well ask me for
Jupiter...again” Mar. 1885**



**The Last Spike, 7 Nov.
1885**

Big Bear and Poundmaker

**Poundmaker's "Siege" of
Battleford, 30 Mar.**

- Panic - town abandoned**
- Starving - looting stores**
- Métis instigators**

**"The Siege that Never
Happened?"**

- Water supply, gov't cook**

Frog Lake Massacre, 2 Apr.

- Farm Instructor Payne and
Itka's daughter**
- Big Bear vs. young warriors**



Poundmaker

Canada's First War, 1885

Canadian Pacific Railway

- 16 stops, gaps in rail**
- In Qu'Appelle by *April 6***
- Wolseley's 13 Weeks?**

“Canada's First War?”

**Departure of British
Garrisons, 1871**

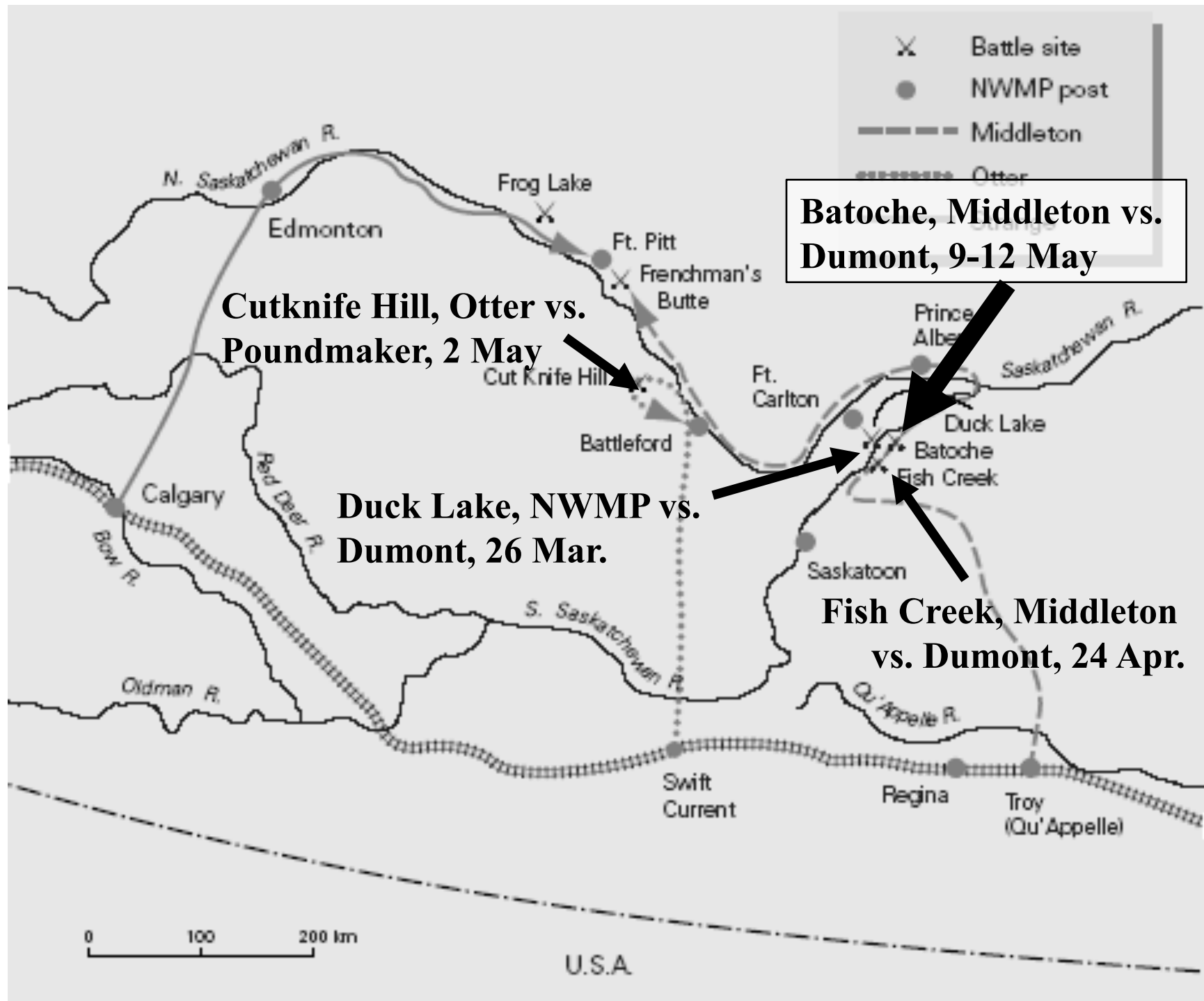
Maj. Gen. Frederick Middleton

- 3,000 Canadian Militia**
- 2,000 NWMP & Volunteers**
- Artillery and Gatling guns**





The University of Toronto's "K" Company, Queen's Own Rifles, shown immediately after their return from the Northwest, by the doorway of University College. A grateful University honoured its undergraduate soldiers by exempting them from their annual examination, and automatically giving them their academic year.



Batoche, 9-12 May 1885

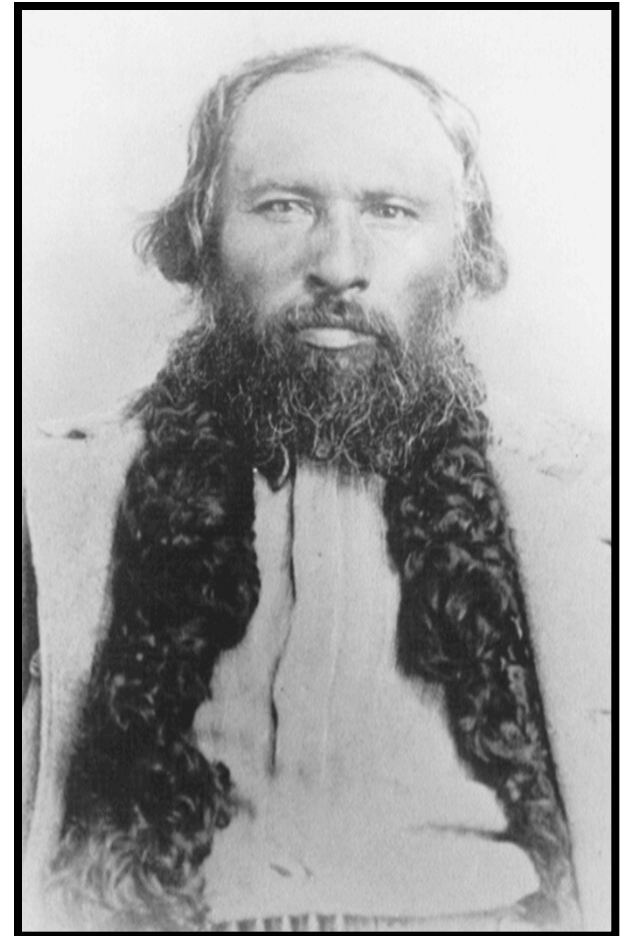
**Centre of the South Branch Métis
settlements, est. 1872**

Middleton's 850 vs. 350 Metis

- 3-day siege, Métis ammunition
ran out**
- Cdn Militia ignores Middleton's
orders**

**Riel surrenders; Dumont flees to the
United States**

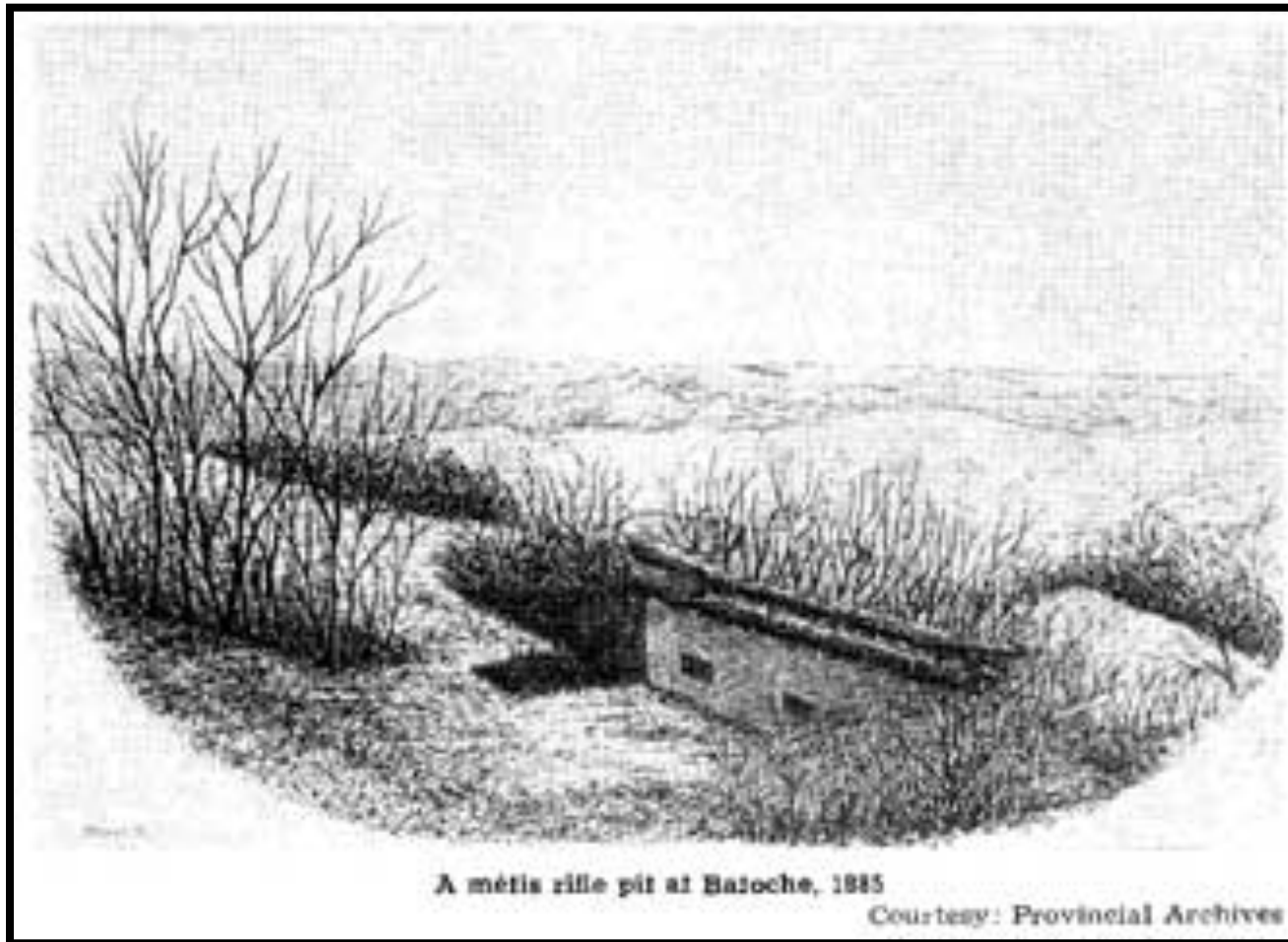
**Poundmaker 26 May; Big Bear 2
July**



Gabriel Dumont



A Métis house burns at Batoche, 9 May 1885.



A métis rifle pit at Batoche, 1885

Courtesy: Provincial Archives

“This is a rather different way of fighting from what we expected. We calculated on seeing the enemy anyway. We were all fully under the impression that in aiming our rifles we would have something to aim at in the shape of human forms.”

Diary of Staff Sergeant Walter Stewart, Midland Rifles, 9 May 1885.

The Last Spike, 7 Nov. 1885

**Craigellachie, B.C.: Donald
Smith (Lord Strathcona),
Van Horne, Fleming**

**Van Horne: “would have
made a Canadian out of
the German emperor.”**

**First through passenger train
to Port Moody: 4 July 1886**

Montreal → Vancouver

- 85 hours, \$123.35

- Ave. salary: \$1-2/day

- Public \$ = CPR Profit



**The arrival of the first CPR
passenger train at Vancouver, at
the foot of Howe Street, May 23,
1887. The next day marked
Queen Victoria's birthday.**



The driving of the last spike, November 7, 1885, 9:30 a.m., at Craigellachie, British Columbia. The important CPR financial backer Donald A. Smith (later Lord Strathcona) holds the heavy spike hammer. Behind Smith stands white-bearded Sandford Fleming, former engineer-in-chief, to the left is the burly figure of W.C. Van Horne, CPR general manager.



**The Red River
Expedition, 1870**



**The Last Spike,
November 7, 1885.**

Consequences

53 Canadians killed, 118 wounded

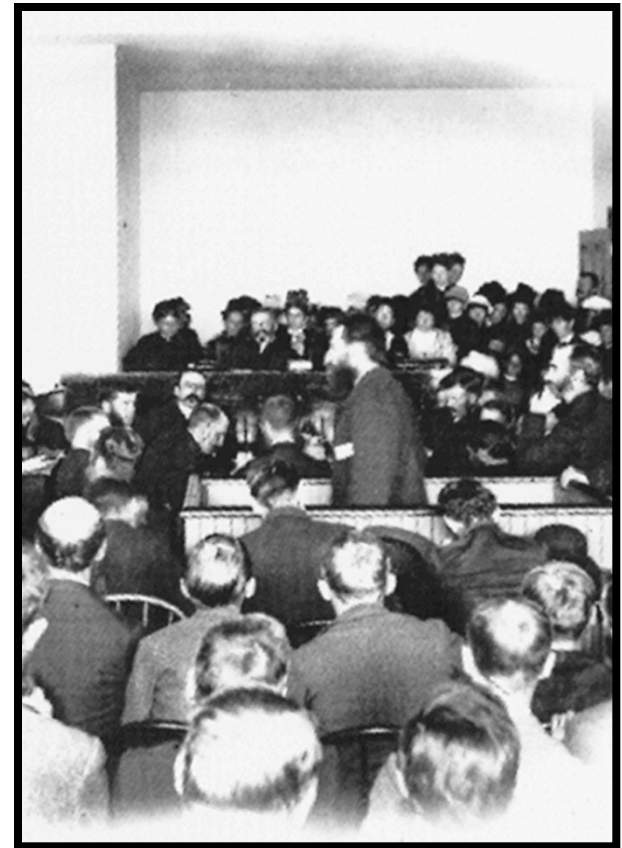
35 Métis and First Nations killed

129 imprisoned:

- 46 Métis, 19 convicted, 1 hanged (Riel), 7 cond. Discharge**
- 81 First Nations, 44 convicted, 8 hanged**

Big Bear, Poundmaker – 3-yr sentences

Gabriel Dumont escapes to the U.S. (until 1906)



Louis Riel's address to the jury during his trial at Regina, late July 1885.

The bad things they have said about me are not true. I have worked only at trying to keep peace. This spring, when my Indians, the half-breeds, and the white men fought, I prevented further killing. As soon as I heard what had happened at Batoche, I led my people and went to the white man to give myself up. If I had not done so, there would have been plenty of bloodshed. For this reason I am here... I will not excuse myself for saving the lives of so many people, even if I must suffer for it now.

Poundmaker, 1885.

A Legacy of Bitterness

Jury of 6, British-backgrounds

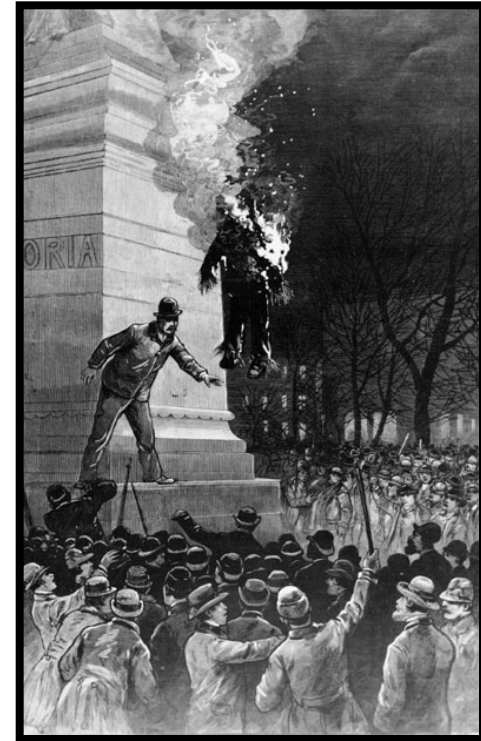
Riel: Not Guilty, Not Insane

- ON vs. QB Doctors**
- Macdonald postpones twice**

**“Riel must swing” – Ontario
Votes**

**Honoré Mercier: “Riel, our
brother is dead, victim of
fanaticism and treason...”**

**Laurier: “If I had been on the
banks of the Saskatchewan”**



**Immediately after Riel's execution
on November 16, 1885, French
Canadians in Montreal burned Sir
John Macdonald in effigy at the
base of the statue of Queen
Victoria in Victoria Square.**