Dominion of Canada

Classified Document

1869

the Trouble a t

Red River

Spy Mission

Special Agent’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**John A. Macdonald’s Problem**

“I have mentioned that I had appointed McDougall as the

lieutenant-governor of the soon to be acquired land. I sent him

to the colony to set up a Canadian government for the territory. He had to travel through the United States because there is no road nor railroad joining Ontario and the North-West Territories.

“When he arrived at the border of the Red River Settlement

(October 21), McDougall found the road leading to the Fort

blocked by a group of armed half-breeds known as Métis. They

gave him a written letter in French that told him that the Métis would not have any governor without being consulted first and fearing for his safety, he returned back to the U.S.

“On top of this terrible act, I learned that the government

surveyors sent out to the survey the land were stopped by these

Métis. The surveyors were not allowed to continue with their work and were threatened with harm if they did! Instead of

accepting the legitimate government from our Dominion (to be set up by McDougal l) M é ti s have set up thei r OWN

government, a Provisional Government.

“But the seriousness of this situation peaked when I learned that, under the leadership of Louis Riel, this government sent 120

armed Métis into Fort Garry and took control on November 2nd. This fort contains large supplies of food and ammunition. From this strategic position, they can control the colony. This, my dear friends, can only mean one thing - TREASON! And treason is punishable by DEATH!

**“Do I seek a peaceful solution through negotiation, or do I use force?**

**This is where I need your help!**

**Your Mission**

I need each and everyone of you fine young people to act as Special Agents for the Dominion of Canada. You are to go to the Red River Settlement to gather vital information so that I can make the best decision for our country.

You are to get information about:

**THE EVENTS**

1. Wha t reall y happened w\_ith

- McDougall;

- the surveyors;

- the taking of Fort Garry?

2. What decisions does the Provisional Government make?

3. Why did this ‘trouble’ happen?

**THE PEOPLE**

1. Who are the people of the west?

2. Who are the Métis ?

- find out more about their culture

3. Who is Louis Riel ?

**THESOLUTION**

1. Based on your research, what should be the decision of the Canadian government?

- Negotiate a peaceful settlement? How?

- Use force? How?

2. Give good evidence for your recommendation.

**THE WRITTEN REPORT**

1. You will present all this information in a creative written report, that is accurate and informative..

**Definitions**

1. provisional -

2. treason -

3. traitor -

4. surveyor -

5. primary source -

6. secondary source -

7. aboriginal -

8. nomadic -

**Where to find research**

**TEXTBOOKS found in the Class**

**WEB SITES:** [www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/) [www.metisnation.org/culture/home.html](http://www.metisnation.org/culture/home.html) [www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Traditions/English/metis\_games.html](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Traditions/English/metis_games.html) [www.shsb.mb.ca/riel/indexenglish.htm](http://www.shsb.mb.ca/riel/indexenglish.htm)

**OTHER - Notes posted on our class website**

**-** The Métis Bill of Rights (attached)