

Riel-First Canadian Revolutionary , A Father Of Confederation ?

A hundred years ago, people said Louis Riel was crazy. And they backed it up by pointing to remarks like, "I am the founder of Manitoba and the saviour of my people." This summer, when Manitoba celebrated its centennial it erected memorials to Louis Riel, "the founder of Manitoba."

As soon as Confederation had been established in 1867, the central government began looking west to Rupert's Land, the expansive western prairies owned by the Hudson's Bay Company. Businessmen in Ontario were eager to spread their commercial sphere that

way, and anxious to stop the Americans from making further inroads. In Sir John A., they had a faithful ally.

The rights of the minority must be protected, "he said at the time of Confederation," and the rich are always fewer in number than the poor."

In 1868, Sir John A., began negotiations with the Bay to purchase the land. A year later they had reached a mutually satisfactory deal. Unfortunately, the inhabitants of Red River—mainly French-speaking Metis, but also English and Irish people—were not consulted.

This, of course, did not stop Ottawa, which sent put a surveying crew to survey land which Metis were already living on, totally ignoring existing land divisions. A small band of Metis forced the crew to leave the settlement. It was the initial act of resistance in the short-lived national liberation struggle of the native people.

Several weeks later, when William McDougall, one of the Fathers of Confederation rewarded for his support of MacDonald with the governorship of the new western territory, attempted to cross into the area he was met by an armed roadblock. He retreated to Minnesota.

On December 1, Riel proclaimed a provisional government which established a bilingual government with elected officials at all levels. In the "Declaration of the People of Rupert's Land and the Northwest," the people set out terms of settlement with Ottawa. All along, in spite of the fact that he was later hung for treason, Riel maintained that he was loyal to the Queen, and his people were opposing the Canadians because they had not consulted the natives.

MISERABLE HALF-BREEDS

Ottawa, meanwhile, was becoming agitated. The land transfer was supposed to be simple and easy. Now there were "these miserable half-breeds" (as Sir John A. was fond of calling them) to deal with. And for some indiscernable reason, the "half-breeds" were afraid the Canadian government was trying to do them in. When McDougall informed Ottawa of this fear, Secretary of State Joseph Howe told him to reassure the people by explaining that "surely your treatment of the native people is one of the brightest pages in British American history."

It took a visit from Donald Smith, later Lord Strathcona, and head of the Hudson's Bay Company, to convince the people to join Canada. Even then, through their resistance the Red River people won some of their demands—status as a "self-governing province" instead of a governed territory, and French linguistic rights.

During the period of the provisional government, crime was almost negligible. For the first time the native people could live without fear of the whites in the colony who had been terrorizing them. Riel had some of the members of the so-called Canadian party put in jail, and found it necessary to execute (after trial) one bothersome prisoner named Thomas Scott. Another prisoner, Dr. John Schultz, escaped, returned to Ontario and used the spectre of savages murdering white men on the Prairies. He convinced the Ontario government to offer the unheard of reward of \$5,000 for Riel's capture, and

SRC Bulletin

The following motions were passed at the December 6th, meeting of the UNB-SRC:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Sandy Fairbanks and Nancy Kingett be appointed to the Student Discipline Committee for the academic year 1970-71.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Second Hand Book Store be closed down at the end of the first term of the 1970-71 academic year, and that arrangements be made to return all the books in the store to their proper owners.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRC grant Barbara Boyd \$400.00 for her extensive efforts in the bookstore over the past six (6) months.

Let the motion be amended to read "grant Barbara Boyd \$700.00. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the report titled the SRC Honoraria Policy presented to the December 6, 1970 meeting be incorporated into the official Financial Policy of the Student Union.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bookstore remain open until May of 1971 and that the manager get \$400.00 as salary.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Rita Dillon be appointed to the AB.

The following motions were passed at the January 10 meeting of the SRC:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mike Richard be appointed returning officer for the SRC spring election, February 10th, 1971.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRC spring election, 1971 take place Wednesday, February 10th, 1971.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the preliminary recommendations presented to council January 10th, 1971 by the R-UNB Commission be approved by council.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the terms expressed in the proposed contract, presented to council at the Jan. 10th meeting, between the UNB-SRC and the STU-SRC, be incorporated into a formal contract to be drawn up by the executive and presented to the STU-SRC for approval and signing. And be it further resolved that in all instances where the terms read September 1st that it be amended to read September 30.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the second hand book store be immediately closed down and all books be returned to their owners.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the president be directed to prepare a full report outlining the feasibility of establishing a tutoring centre based on the procedures followed at the UBC Tutoring Centre, on the UNB campus, for presentation at the SRC meeting of January 24, 1971.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRC Supports in principle the concept of the sabbatical presidency for the UNB student union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Constitution Committee be directed to prepare recommended constitutional changes in order to implement the sabbatical presidency with the beginning of the next presidential term.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the president be directed to prepare a report on academic tenure at UNB as outlined in the letter of December 16, 1970 by R.W. McDiarmid, Chairman of the UBC - AMS Tenure Investigation Committee for presentation to a meeting of the SRC on Sunday, January 24, 1971 for recommendations for further study by the incoming SRC on February 14, 1971.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Stephen MacFarlane and Donald Olmstead be nominated to serve as SRC representatives on the Search Committee to recommend appointment of a Dean of Students.

The Association of Student Councils provides a number of travel services for member students. In December the UNB-SRC voted to join the association, thereby making these services available to all UNB student union members.

The Flight Program for the 1971 lists flight dates and prices for the coming summer. Rates such as Toronto to London, return leaving May 5th returning September 1st for \$207.00; or Halifax to London, return May 19th return Aug. 30, \$190.00; or Toronto to Cuba, return, Aug. 1st to Sept. 1st, \$140.00. The Cuban offer being presently negotiated to include one week touring and three weeks working in the sugar fields.

One way flights to London from Toronto are as little as \$101.00, leaving as various dates throughout the summer and early fall. Free ground transportation from the airport is a London special as well as the full co-operation of two student travel agencies in the British Isles.

AOSC also can make any onward travel reservation required, at student rates. For instance, with an International Student Identity card, available to AOSC members, half fare flights can be booked at prices such as London to Tel Aviv \$77.00 or Amsterdam to Moscow \$29.00.

For unlimited travel in Europe, by rail, first class, in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, on one ticket there is the Eurailpass. This pass is valid for 21 days, one month two or three months at a rate of \$112.00, \$142.00, \$183.00 or \$214.00 respectively.

Such flights and passes are available to all AOSC members, their parents, spouse and dependent children provided they are accompanied by an AOSC member.

Application forms are available from the SRC office and since the number of seats is limited those who apply first are served first. Also a deposit is required.

For full information on AOSC travel services International Student Cards, working in Europe or European tours, the AOSC Student Travel brochure will be available soon at the UNB-SRC office.

Two Scholarships Available

Khaki University and Y.M.C.A. scholarships are now available. The scholarships are open to students in any course.

Each scholarship is worth \$100. There are two. One scholarship is to be awarded to a member of the Freshman class and to a member of the Sophomore class under the following conditions and in this order named:

- 1) Sons and daughters of those who served in the Armed Forces during the War 1914 - 1918.
- 2) Sons and daughters of those

who served in the Armed Forces during the War 1939 - 1945. 3) Those who served in the Armed Forces during the War of 1939 - 1945

Scholarships are awarded on consideration of financial need and success in the work of first term.

The Financial Aid and Awards Officer in Room 36 of Annex 'B' is accepting applications for these scholarships.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is Friday, February 12th, 1971.

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