

Blake and Lord Dufferin in 1876. It was not until 1885, under another government and another private railway company, that the Canadian Pacific Railway was brought to completion.

Towards the end of the First Session of the Third Parliament the Mackenzie government brought forward a proposal for the establishment of a Canadian military college. The Hon. William Ross, minister of militia and defence, explained the purposes and structure of the new college on the second reading of its founding bill on 15 May. The college would combine the best features of the instruction offered at West Point in the United States and at famous British institutions such as Sandhurst and Woolwich. It would train officers for service in the cavalry, the artillery, the engineers and the infantry. An argument strongly in its favour was that it would also meet the need for engineers for civil tasks as well as military ones. Once its four-year course of study was in place, it would have an enrolment of 96 cadets.

There was general approval for the scheme in the Commons, the chief point of discussion being competing claims by members for the location of the school. The government had not announced a site, saying only that it was proposed to locate the college in one of the country's garrison towns. But Mackenzie had worked on the Martello towers in Kingston as a young stone mason, and in June he revisited Fort Henry, already the site of a school for gunnery for the Canadian militia. By the end of the year it was known that the military college would be located at Kingston. Instruction began at the college in 1876.

Louis Riel, M.P.

By far the most dramatic moments in the First Session of the Third Parliament arose from the early clash between French and English-speaking members in the House of Commons over the election and seating of Louis Riel.

Riel, the Métis leader in the Red River who had been instrumental in winning provincial status for Manitoba in 1870, was a fiercely controversial figure in 1874. His decision, as leader of the provisional government at Red River, to execute an opponent, the obstreperous Orangeman Thomas Scott, outraged residents of Scott's home province, Ontario. Riel was indicted for Scott's murder before a grand jury in Manitoba and the government of Ontario offered a reward of \$5000 for his arrest. Complicating the question was a government promise of 1869 that no legal proceedings would be taken against those involved in the Red River uprising. This amnesty had been granted in a proclamation by the Governor-General in December 1869, before Scott's death. Amnesty for Riel and his associates had been discussed during the negotiations for the Manitoba Act but no formal commitment had been made.

The Macdonald government, recognizing the incendiary issue posed by Riel, had secretly paid him an allowance to live in the United States. Riel, however, had returned to the Red River, where he was regarded as a hero by the Métis community in which he lived. In the general election of 1872 he had been persuaded not to try for the Métis seat of Provencher, south of Fort Garry, and had allowed Sir George-Étienne Cartier, defeated earlier in Montreal, to take the seat by acclamation. This practical gesture of support for the Macdonald government did not win him the desired amnesty, however. After Cartier's death Riel was elected for Provencher in a by-election held in October 1873, and again in the general election of 1874.