

son Bay Company had provoked the resentment not only of their own officers, but of the French half-breeds. Louis Riel headed what became known as the Red River Rebellion, and things were so seriously bungled by the authorities that Sir John Macdonald was very much embarrassed. In this situation Donald Smith—"the Hudson Bay man," Sir John Macdonald called him—was appointed a Special Commissioner, in conjunction with one or two others, including a missionary who had spent thirty-seven years in the Red River district. Ostensibly he went as an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, but was provided with a commission from the Canadian Government, to be used if occasion required. His special mission was to endeavour to bring about the dispersion of the half-breeds and the dissolution of their Committee. This was not so easy. Riel placed him under arrest, and threatened his life. But he was not the man to be browbeaten, and the way in which he grappled with the "dictator" and practically saved the situation was one of the most romantic episodes in a life full of romance and adventure. It is true that peace and order were not definitely restored until the despatch of an Imperial force in 1870, under the command of Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had Sir Redvers Buller on his staff, but Donald Smith's services were such as to earn the thanks of the Governor-General in Council, and secured him a permanent status amongst the leaders of Canada.

Donald Smith was a member of the first Executive Council of the North-West Territory; represented Winnipeg and St. John's in the Manitoba Legislatures for several years; sat in the Dominion Parliament for Selkirk (so named because of the Earl of Selkirk already mentioned); and later, from 1877 to 1896, represented Montreal West. He was the last Resident Governor of the Hudson Bay Company as a governing body. His part in the development of Manitoba was very considerable. When the Marquis of Lorne, subsequently Duke of Argyll, was Governor-General of Canada a friendship was founded between the two that lasted throughout life. The