

that Mr. Macdougall, though he was one of the few prominent men of that day who really appreciated the vast possibilities of the North-West, and though he had done very good service in securing the transfer of that territory from the Hudson's Bay Company to Canada, had also a very high sense of his own importance and authority as Lieutenant-Governor. When he found himself literally barred out of his new dominion by men whom he rather despised as semi-savages, he seems to have lost his head and to have openly or tacitly sanctioned some of the hotter of his partisans in the settlement to have recourse to force. This was the signal for an explosion.

REPORTER. Had the half-breeds any organization?

SIR RICHARD. I think they had been in the habit of organizing in considerable numbers in a sort of half-military fashion, for the purpose of their annual buffalo hunts. There were a good many among them who had skirmished more or less with the Indian tribes on the border, and it was not a very long time since there had been a series of rather bloody conflicts between the employees of the rival fur companies. It was a time, too, when Indian wars were very much in evidence all along the United States frontier territory. Altogether they were a dangerous sort of people for any unauthorized person to meddle with.

REPORTER. What happened then?

SIR RICHARD. The rising of Mr. Macdougall's partisans was suppressed with great promptitude. Several prisoners were taken and tried by a sort of summary courtmartial and sentenced to death. Most unhappily, one of these, a man named Scott, was a member of the Orange Order, and in putting him and him alone to death Riel, who was the chief leader of the malcontents, drew down on himself the unrelenting hostility of that formidable body. In fact he might with much more safety to himself have cut the throats of all his other captives than have hurt a hair of Scott's head, as the final result proved most abundantly. It was alleged, though on doubtful evidence, that Scott was put to death under circumstances