

ment for food and clothing. In 1875 the Hon. David Laird was appointed lieutenant-governor of the North-West. He was assisted in his duties by a council of three members. The governor made his home in Battleford, then the capital of the Territories. Mr. Laird soon won the affection and respect of the Indians. He never deceived them, but treated them with such firmness and kindness that the influence of the tall white chief was powerful even among the most distant and savage tribes.

When the fertility of the Saskatchewan Valley became known, settlers from Eastern Canada, from Great Britain and from some of the over-peopled countries of Europe, began to arrive. They had been preceded in 1870 by the discontented half-breeds, who left Manitoba during and after the Red River rebellion of 1869.

In 1881 Governor Laird was succeeded by Hon. Edgar Dewdney. The four districts of Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Athabasca were formed from the territory, and the capital was moved to Regina. Otherwise there was, as yet, no change in the government of the North-West Territories. Order was maintained by the mounted police, who were stationed at wide intervals through the country, and whose bravery and devotion to duty made them a terror to evil-doers of all races. One, and perhaps the chief and most difficult of their duties, was to prevent the sale of liquor to Indians, who could not control their craving for strong drink, and who suffered even more than white men from its bad effects.

As time went on, the half-breeds began to fear that their lands to which they had no titles, would be taken from them and sold to the settlers who, now that the Canadian Pacific railroad was nearing completion, were arriving in great numbers. Buffalo were becoming scarce, and the Indian tribes feared hunger and grew restless. Louis Riel, who had been an outlaw since the first rebellion, was allowed to return to Canada. The