

DOMINION OF CANADA
CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT
1869

THE
TROUBLE
AT
RED RIVER
SPY MISSION

SPECIAL AGENT'S NAME: _____

John A. Macdonald's Problem

“I have mentioned that I had appointed McDougall as the lieutenant-governor of the soon to be acquired land. I sent him to the colony to set up a Canadian government for the territory. He had to travel through the United States because there is no road nor railroad joining Ontario and the North-West Territories.

“When he arrived at the border of the Red River Settlement (October 21), McDougall found the road leading to the Fort blocked by a group of armed half-breeds known as Métis. They gave him a written letter in French that told him that the Métis would not have any governor without being consulted first and fearing for his safety, he returned back to the U.S.

“On top of this abomination, I learned that the government surveyors sent out to the survey the land were stopped by these Métis. The surveyors were not allowed to continue with their work and were threatened with harm if they did! Instead of accepting the legitimate government from our Dominion (to be set up by McDougall) these Métis have set up their OWN government, a Provisional Government.

“But the seriousness of this situation peaked when I learned that, under the leadership of Louis Riel, this government sent 120 armed Métis into Fort Garry and took control on November 2. This fort contains large supplies of food and ammunition. From this strategic position, they can control the colony. This, my dear friends, can only mean one thing - TREASON! And treason is punishable by DEATH!

“Do I seek a peaceful solution through negotiation, or do I use force?”

This is where I need your help!

Your Mission

I need each and everyone of you fine young people to act as Special Agents for the Dominion of Canada. You are to _____ the Red River Settlement to gather vital _____ so that I can make the best _____ in the interest of our country.

You are to get information about:

THE EVENTS

1. What really _____ with
 - McDougall;
 - the surveyors;
 - the taking of Fort Garry?
2. What _____ does the Provisional Government make?
3. _____ did this 'trouble' happen?

THE PEOPLE

1. Who are the _____ of the west?
2. Who are the _____?
 - find out more about their _____
3. Who is Louis _____?

THE SOLUTION

1. Based on your research, what should be the _____ of the Canadian government?
 - Negotiate a peaceful settlement? How?
 - Use force? How?
2. Give good _____ for your recommendation.

THE WRITTEN REPORT

1. You will present all this information in a creative _____ report.
2. Use your prior knowledge of writing _____ reports and expository _____ to produce a report that is accurate and informative.
3. Be _____ with your Top Secret Report!
4. DUE DATE: _____

Definitions

1. provisional - _____

2. treason - _____

3. traitor - _____

4. surveyor - _____

5. primary source - _____
(see page 122)

6. secondary source - _____
(see page 122)

7. aboriginal - _____

8. nomadic - _____
(see page 112)

Where to find research

TEXTBOOK - p. 82, pp. 110 - 124

WEB SITES:

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com

www.metisnation.org/culture/home.html

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Traditions/English/metis_games.html

www.shsb.mb.ca/riel/indexenglish.htm

VIDEO - Canada, A People's History (to be shown in class)

OTHER - Letter to McDougall (attached)

- The Métis Bill of Rights (attached)