

# THE BATTLE OVER LOUIS RIEL

ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX DIOCHON | WRITTEN BY NANCY PAYNE





AND THE GOVERNMENT SENT MEN FROM ONTARIO WHO HATED CATHOLICS TO DIVIDE UP LAND THAT BELONGED TO THE MÉTIS.



WELL, THAT'S SURE NOT WHAT WE LEARNED IN SCHOOL...



RIEL MURDERED THOMAS SCOTT!



SCOTT WASN'T A NICE GUY, BUT HE WAS JUST DOING HIS JOB MARKING OUT LAND FOR THE SETTLERS.



RIEL WAS JUST DOING HIS JOB! AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT KILLED HIM!



WITHOUT RIEL, MANITOBA MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A PROVINCE!



HE'S A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION.



HE WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, TOO, BUT THEY WOULDN'T EVEN LET HIM TAKE HIS PLACE IN OTTAWA.

THE PEOPLE OF RED RIVER ELECTED ME TO BE THEIR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. LET ME TAKE MY PLACE!



OF COURSE NOT! WHY LET A CRIMINAL INTO THE GOVERNMENT?

THE PEOPLE OF RED RIVER ELECTED ME TO BE THEIR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. LET ME TAKE MY PLACE!

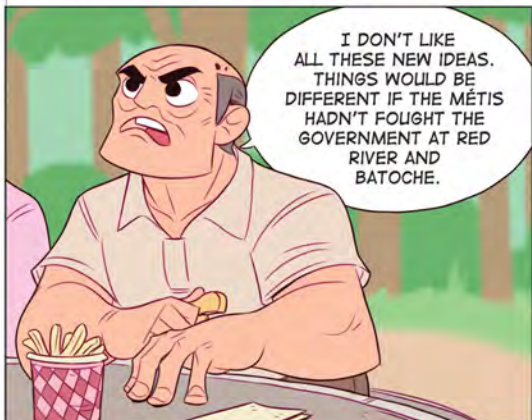


NO WONDER HE TOOK OFF TO THE STATES INSTEAD OF FACING JUSTICE.

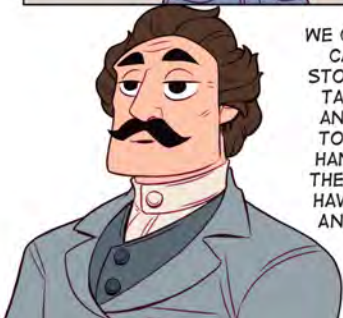


THE GOVERNMENT FORCED HIM OUT!









WE CAN'T SUM UP LOUIS RIEL'S COMPLICATED LIFE IN JUST A FEW SENTENCES. BUT WE CAN TELL YOU THAT HE IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY OF CANADA. HE STOOD UP FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MOVED IN TO TAKE THEIR LAND. HE WAS PART OF THE GROUP THAT FOUND THOMAS SCOTT GUILTY AND EXECUTED HIM. HE MADE MANITOBA A PART OF CANADA AND HE LED HIS PEOPLE TO FIGHT AGAINST CANADIAN FORCES. LATER IN LIFE, CANADA PUT RIEL TO DEATH BY HANGING. CANADIAN OFFICIALS CLAIMED HE COMMITTED TREASON WHEN HE OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT AND STOOD UP FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS. HE WAS SMART AND MAY HAVE HAD MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AT TIMES. HE WAS MANY THINGS, ALL AT ONCE. AND FOR FAR TOO LONG, THE VOICES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, THE VERY ONES RIEL WORKED TO UPHOLD, HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT OF CANADA'S CONVERSATIONS.