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Souvenir NUMBER

OF THE
ILLUSTRATED
WAR NEWS

BEING
A HISTORY
- OF -
RIEL'S
SECOND REBELLION.



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1885.

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OFFICE OF TORONTO SUGAR AND SYRUP REFINERS,

Toronto, 14th August, 1885.

Messrs. J. & J. TAYLOR, Toronto Safe Works, City.

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Yours truly,

TORONTO SUGAR AND SYRUP REFINERS,

by ROBERT W. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

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THE SOUVENIR NUMBER OF
THE CANADIAN PICTORIAL AND ILLUSTRATED WAR NEWS.

A HISTORY OF
RIEL'S SECOND REBELLION
AND HOW IT WAS QUELLED.

By T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN, M.A.



GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, OF TORONTO.

1885.

The Canadian Pictorial & Illustrated Weekly News.

A HISTORY OF RIEL'S SECOND REBELLION, AND HOW IT WAS QUELLED.

BY T. F. ARNOLD HAULTAIN, M.A.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, 4TH JULY, 1885.

INTRODUCTION.

Or all the various phases of a war, an outbreak, or a rebellion, perhaps that which is least interesting to the general public is the history of the causes which lead to it. The soil to arms is stirring, the roll of the drum is inspiring, the rattle of musketry and the roar of cannon highly exciting to the public mind; but the political or social phenomena which underlie the outward "boom and circumstance," the grounds of complaint of the offending or rebelling party, the acts of repression or aggression which lead to rebellion, and the various details which culminate in a resort to the sword, only the grave, impartial, and philosophical historian can rightly explain. Another matter that is a source of surprise. These underlying phenomena are often so intricate and complicated, so distracted by party jealousy or interested motives, so obscured by various shades of misapprehension attached to notions by antagonistic outlooks, so hidden by vague rumors and such assertions, that truly to discern where in reality they lie, the nature of bloodshed is too often altogether impossible.

To this the recent rising in the north-west territories of Canada is no exception. All possible elements of difficulty seem to surround the question of its origin. It extended over vast areas separated, in many instances, by tedious and almost trackless distances. Those who took part in it were of different nationalities, and possess of different social characters. The alleged grounds of dissatisfaction were difficult to define and I can only say to adjust. Contrivances of many kinds were introduced by party rancor and hatred. Careful sifting of evidence it was difficult to obtain, and a dispassionate judgment was well nigh impossible. There were many and satisfactory solutions of the problem, and each solution was sustained with unyielding firmness and often with vehement obstinacy. The question was many-sided, and each side were powerful adherents, the various allusions were indefatigable and unceasing.

Avoid such conflicting influences it is our aim at present to judge. There may possibly come a time, after the subsidence of the storm, when we shall be able to regard events in their true light, unclouded by party chicanery, and not hidden by mist of ill-intent.

The outbreak, however, has not been without its lessons. Nature is compassionate. For things, however calamitous, but produce some beneficial results; and those that accrue from war, if gained by loss and hardship, are, perhaps not that account, more efficacious and, therefore, deserving of greater consideration.

Amongst such lessons is one to which we cannot do our eyes. The lessons we possess in the Indian in the western parts, the negroes in the south, to say nothing of the Irish, German and Italian clans scattered throughout the continent, will suffice to show that he has yet important ethical problems to solve. Even Great Britain is not free from it, as the Irish question will prove. And the Nation, few will hesitate to grant that its intricacy

and importance call for a speedy contemplation of its diffusion.

The phrase "race-sterion" is nevertheless a misleading one. It connotes much that is such a thing as a racial origin, but is studied and purely from difference of nationality. If we regard India, a country where official recognition is supposed to be well-secured, we shall, I think, find that this antagonism is the growth of other influences than those which antagonize the antagonistic nations of modern diffusion. When a European passes through the streets of that perhaps most typical of Indian cities, Hyderabad, the capital of a large and independent state, he is met with no signs of favour or hatred. But what is the word chosen to denote by the date of mingling? It is "Arya," and "Arya." This, I conceive, will give us a clue to its influence as to that ethnical which creates in time as in racial antagonism—Aryan and Indian, but will explain much of that venously studying afterwards with which the various oriental cases regard a chapter. Another, and perhaps more potent than is supposed, is the social, political, and social. Another, civilization, education, law, art, natural or acquired modes of life, habits, tastes, traits, and the like.

In Canada all these seem to exist. I do not refer to the population, but to another lot they lose themselves in almost unrecognizable manifestations. There is the Roman Catholic, the Protestant, the French Canadian, the Scotch, the Irish, the English, the French half-breed or settler, the Scotch and English half-breeds, the various tribes of Indians. There are also found the Scandinavians, there are different shades of each of these, and there are all manner of combinations of them.

This is no unimportant problem for the Dominion of ours, and upon this subject truth might be said. But perhaps the wisest, and at the same time simplest, generalization that we can draw from this mixture of nationalities is, that these differences of religion, power, civilization, education, and modes of life, induce a certain amount of friction which it is impossible to allay and often difficult to prevent from resulting in "friction," as, in engineering, it is so much termed. Whatever may be the views we shall choose to adopt in explanation of our north-west troubles, we cannot but recognize the fact, that, unless there is a proper adjustment of a mixed nation, are not unreasonably, yet often provocative of the most serious consequences.

The Dominion is still young, and with these various elements which it has yet to grapple. The question of free trade or protection has not been permanently settled, and the question of becoming a self-independent state is beginning to draw for a share of attention; while we still retain or uphold our upper House, and our constitution is being modified by decided upon. And all these we may add the franchise, prohibition, and co-education, all which as yet unsettled, or only partly settled, questions are beginning to more than show their heads. But, if we are not mistaken, few questions are of more vital importance—real to the well-being and progress of the Dominion, than that of ethnical antagonism in the broad and liberal view in which I have said that it presents. We are necessarily in a position to see that, in the progress of settling and re-settling upon each other, that a "stable equilibrium" of the whole community is in danger. And, if the progress of the theory of government of a state as a dynamical rather than a

static one—to borrow the language of the exact sciences—the problem becomes indefinitely enlarged.

I must not, however, in any way be misunderstood. I mean you should think of the half-breed rising to an ethnical one. It is necessary only to grant that it is one, and not an unimportant, factor of the question. But upon it we must be careful not to let too great a stress. Indeed, it is difficult to bring ourselves to apply the word "nation" to the half-breed, much less to the tribes of Indians inhabiting our north-west lands. The former can hardly be said to possess distinctive national characteristics of their own; the latter are little removed from savages, and are scarcely considered, but for a small proportion to the population as a whole. Added to this, the alleged grounds of complaint—however valid they may be interpreted—can hardly be termed national in the strict sense of the term.

On these grounds of complaint let us take some. It will be sufficient at this time and place to review very briefly the more important and more general theories that are held in regard to this subject.

There are some general theories that will be best, perhaps, to glance at the outlines of those which are most at variance. For, in truth, the subject may be examined from so many points of view that no investigation may safely be left to those who will devote themselves entirely to its elucidation.

If it is said a staunch Conservative to what he times the present rebellion, he will in all likelihood answer, "I can tell you it is a war,"—the "Grits." If we ask a Liberal, he will be like manner reply, "The matter lies in a nut-shell,"—the "Tories." However, without indulging in party prejudices, let us attempt what we may do for the chief conflicting positions.

First, then, there are those who hold that there is in reality no ground of complaint as ground at all; none whatsoever. Those who hold this view, and amongst these are many who speak whereof they speak, and are considered by many an authority on all matters connected with the treatment of Indians and half-breeds, those who hold this view contend that the sole and only source of the uprising is to be found in the Indian, the refusal of these half-breeds to submit to the very simple regulations which attach to the possession of land. They look upon these half-breeds as law, very low down in the moral scale. They see in them only a creature in their habits; that they cannot be made to settle down peacefully to the cultivation of their lands, that, indeed, land for this purpose is not by any means what they chiefly desire, and that what they really seek is spirit, with which to obtain money; and that this is true of fully ninety-nine per cent. of those who have not their own money, and that the pig upon which to hang complaint. Those who hold this view trace the events which have occurred in our north-west to this manner—The great majority of the half-breeds now dwelling in the Saskatchewan region, they say, have not long been true to their word. But a few years ago, at the time of the transference to Canada of the Hudson Bay Company's territories, and they would have been found in the country, some of them (as it is pointed to be remembered)—lands in Manitoba, lands they handed over to those by the Government. Their replies and their own countrymen are criticised them—to use no more delicate language—to continue this successful life, if indeed, they had at any time attempted it. They were to receive the government of their lands or scrip into money, carried off each

goods and chattels as they possessed, purchased materials, and upon such large and irregular patches of land as had seized their fancy, and that the whole course of the present disastrous rebellion is nothing more or less than the expiation of these worthless men-ages at their inability to carry out such plans as often as they were promised. And, indeed, they say, they did not comply with the Government regulations as to settlement duties, and seemed to think that they ought not to be called upon to act as other settlers are compelled to in taking a selection. That is to say, they objected to the direction of land into mile sections and quarter sections, each warranted a long narrow strip with a river frontage, and in many cases where a number of half-breeds had settled on a winding river, their respective lands when extended would cross each other, and thus give rise to endless disputes when the country came to be regularly surveyed. They could not be made to see the force of any objection, but were willing to return provided "scrip" were accorded to them, and then go elsewhere and play the same game over again. They must, said they, be satisfied. If these are the true grounds of the rising, that this lawless spirit was fomented, some go so far as to say, by not a few of the European settlers who had grievances, and so supposed, of the latter. Others, seeing, probably, to the particular fact to which they attach themselves, whatever the names of the religious bodies to be found amongst the half-breeds. According to this view, Riel has been led, what is medicine is called, the "craving stone." Granting that he created a spirit either of just compensation or groundless lawlessness, his influence, from whatever source derived and by whatever means, has been in the view of those who have set on fire the highly inflammable material scattered throughout the district of the Saskatchewan.

The other view, diametrically opposed to the foregoing, demands the equal of the foregoing. In the former the root of the difficulty is traced to the obstinacy of the half-breeds as regards the fulfilment of the settlement regulations; in the latter it is found in the distrust with which these half-breeds look upon the Government. In the former view Riel is looked upon as a mere adventurer; in the latter he is thought to be a bold, intelligent, and philanthropic statesman, thoroughly acquainted with the nature and needs of the government of the north-west, and deeply imbued with the idea that the nation in which the half-breeds of the Saskatchewan have been treated by the authorities is unconstituted in the extreme. In the former the half-breeds are looked upon as a body of men undergoing of the same nature as that of any other national characteristics, limited as to intelligence, and easily led by interested adventurers; in the latter they are regarded as an inferior race, whose government is, in many respects, bearing more in their physique and intellect of high descent, possessing fully qualities, and among their customs are many noble and noble elements. In the former, religion plays no important part in instilling the misunderstandings to open hostility in the latter it is said to have acted in the most opposite direction.

The laws, it will thus be seen, of these two views differ widely and in every particular, and, as might be expected, the theories built upon them are equally dissimilar.

The second explanation of the origin of the insurrection to which we have alluded is one of the most complicated questions, possesses which



TYPICAL SKETCHES.

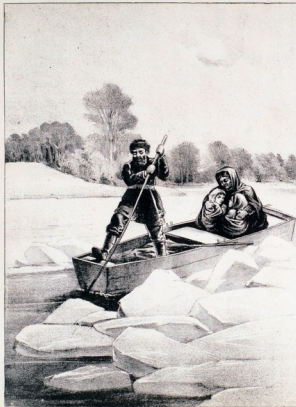
- (1) Constables of the North-West Mounted Police guarding a trail to Prince Albert. (2) "Lo! the poor Indian" and his family. (3) Superintendent Cotton and Inspector Perry dispensing Justice to Blood Indians at Fort McLeod.



THE FIGHT AT DUCK LAKE. (See page 5.)



Apr 1885





MURDER OF THE PRIESTS AT FROG LAKE. (See page 17.)



HEROIC DEFENCE OF FORT PITT BY INSPECTOR DICKENS. (See page 17.)



THE ATTACK ON THE REBELS AT FISH CREEK.

(See Page 14.)



MAJOR-GENERAL MIDDLETON, C.B.,

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THE LOOTING OF THE OLD TOWN OF BATTLEFORD. (See page 16.)



PRAIRIE CHURCH PARADE OF GENERAL MIDDLETON'S COMMAND.

(From a sketch by Lt. Col. Irving, Royal Grenadiers.)



THE LATE CAPT. FRENCH PREVAILING ON THREE OF WHITE CAPS WARRIORS TO SURRENDER. (See page 21)