



Howe: People in Ontario want revenge. They are outraged. They demand that Riel should be tried for treason for executing Scott. They call Riel a murderer. There is even a reward of \$5000 for his arrest.

Macdonald: What about Quebec?

Howe: Riel has support from the province of Quebec where some call him a hero for defending French culture in the colony. They believe that the English-speaking rebels who acted against the provisional government in the Red River should be punished for their crimes.

Macdonald: This is a crisis! There is conflict in the West and now we are also facing conflict among the provinces.

Howe: It is a very difficult situation.

Macdonald: We cannot send the military to the Red River Colony. It is too far to travel quickly. There is no railroad to take our soldiers there. It is also the middle of winter which makes traveling even more difficult.

Howe: Prime Minister, what do you think we should do?

Macdonald: We have to continue negotiating with the delegates from the Red River. They gave us a list of demands about local government, land ownership, language and schools. Can we work with these demands?

Howe: I think we can come to some agreement.



Macdonald: What are we going to call this new province?

Howe: There are a few possibilities. “Manitoba” is an Aboriginal name for one of the lakes there. Lord Selkirk, who brought settlers to the area, called the land “Assiniboia.” Some people want to call it the “North-West.”

Macdonald: I think we should choose “Manitoba” for the name of this new province. It has a pleasant sound, and it also has associations with the original inhabitants of those lands.

Howe: I agree.

Macdonald (determined): Let us move forward with the negotiations. Hopefully, we can have a new province of Manitoba by this summer.

Howe: What about the Thomas Scott problem?

Macdonald: After this is all over, we will have to send the military to Manitoba. This will calm the anger in Ontario and show the United States that we really are expanding Canada into the West.

Howe: What will happen to Riel?

Macdonald: Riel will have to be dealt with after the Red River Colony becomes part of Canada. Let us make sure this happens quickly.