

“Canada A People’s History: The Pathfinders”

The Selkirk Settlers

- The plains near Lake Winnipeg where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers join are crucial to the Nor’Westors survival. Their long expeditions depend on dried buffalo meat – _____. These lands are the North West Company’s food depot.
- The North West Company’s _____ hunters are Metis – descendants of traders and Natives. To these children of the fur trade this is North West Company domain and their homeland.
- But technically, the Hudson’s Bay Company owns the land and the Nor`Westors are squatters. The land along the _____ River could be sold, and in 1811 it is. Lord Selkirk, a caring but somewhat impractical aristocrat, decides to settle the land with impoverished farmers, mainly from his Native Scotland. The philanthropist buys a third of Hudson’s Bay Company shares and 116,000 square miles along the Red River. Lord Selkirk has never been there, but that doesn’t diminish his dream of a homeland for the poor and the dispossessed.
- Fields and fences will threaten the Nor’Westors food supply and trade routes. _____ will inevitably provoke confrontation.

Seven Oaks

- Each year after 1812, a new group of settlers and each year they arrive too late to plant crops. The Selkirk settlers are _____ – struggling to survive.
- Miles MacDonell issues the _____ Proclamation banning the export of food from Red River preventing the North West Company from supplying its trading posts.
- In June 1816, at a place called Seven _____ in Red River, 28 Bay men and settlers confront 61 Metis and natives. When it is all over 21 Bay men and 1 native lay dead.

- In Britain the colonial office calls for a truce. Amalgamation seems the only answer. In 1821, exhausted by the violence and impoverished by relentless expansion, the North West Company agrees to a merger. Two great companies have disputed the possession of the west for half a century. Now they join forces under the name of the _____ Bay Company.