

Bison

“The Metis also hunted bison, and by 1820, the bison hunt had become a central part of Metis life.”

Also called buffalo; large grazing animals that travel in herds.

Pemmican

“Bison provided meat and hides. Most of the meat was dried to make pemmican, while the hides were tanned and made into buffalo robes.”

Dried meat pounded to a paste and mixed with melted fat and berries.

Liberal democrat

“Thomas Douglas, the fifth Earl of Selkirk, was a man of vision. A liberal democrat, Selkirk was troubled by the plight of poor tenant farmers in his native Scotland.”

In the 19th century, someone who fought for the rights of the poor and underprivileged.

Selkirk Settlement

“Selkirk felt he could help both the tenant farmers and the HBC by creating a farming colony, the Selkirk Settlement, in the Red River Valley.”

Also called the Red River Colony; a settlement organized by the Earl of Selkirk in what is now southern Manitoba.

Pemmican Proclamation

“Miles Macdonell, fearing that crops might fail for a second year, issued the Pemmican Proclamation in January 1814.”

Issued in 1814 to prevent the export of pemmican from the Red River Valley.

Bannock

“Women also did the cooking for their families, making bannock and other foods.”

A simple bread, fried or baked, consisting of flour, baking powder, and salt.

Free trade

“The HBC could no longer enforce its monopoly, and free trade became a fact of life in the Red River Valley.”

A system of trade that is not fully regulated by government control.

Red River Resistance

“In 1868, a Metis named Louis Riel returned to Red River from Montreal... Although just 24, he would soon take the role of a leader in... the Red River Resistance.”

Events leading up to the Metis' attempt to achieve recognition of their rights and self-government; also known as the Red River Rebellion.

National Metis Committee

“The following week, Riel formed the National Metis Committee in order to fight for Metis rights, including the right to their land.”

An organization formed to support Metis rights in the Red River Valley.

Provisional government

“To ensure that the Metis would have a voice, Riel decided to set up a provisional government.”

A temporary government.

Sovereign rights

“Riel’s provisional government was now, in fact, the legal government of the area, with “sovereign rights” and the right to negotiate with the Canadian government.”

The right to form a government or country.