The Red River Metis

We discussed how HBC employees had tried to settle in the Red River area, but found that the Red River area was already inhabited by the Metis, ancestors of European fur traders and First Nation women. The Metis in the Red River Settlement were primarily involved in the pemmican trade. They would sell pemmican to the NWC the rival fur trading company as a way of surviving. The Metis successfully defended their pemmican trade and homeland from the Scottish settlers led by Thomas Douglas. After the Battle of Seven Oaks the Metis would be the inhabitants of the Red River Colony.

In 1867 Canada was born as British colonies with four provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario) became the country Canada. The Prime Minister at the time John A McDonald wanted to expand west all the way to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast. The purchased Rupert’s Land from the Hudson Bay Company to move west. This would help to prevent the 13 colonies (U.S.) from expanding north. Canada sent surveyors west towards the Red River area. There they encountered the Metis who inhabited the Red River Area and defended it from the HBC already. The Metis feared that they would lose their land, culture (French Roman Catholic), and their governance.

Use the internet to help you answer the following questions:

1. Who was William McDougall and what did he attempt to do for the Canadian Government?
2. Who was Thomas Scott? What would happen to Thomas Scott?
3. Who was Louis Riel? What did he do in response to Canada’s attempts to move into the Red River Metis’ homeland?
4. What did the Metis at Red River bring to the Canadian Government? What were the demands of the Metis people?
5. What was the Manitoba Act? What did it do to protect Metis rights and culture?
6. What is Metis Scrip?
7. What did the Metis scrip included in the Manitoba Act entitle the Red River Metis to?