

from the outset, all will be in place well in advance of the opening including a new 42,400 seat main stadium.

Tickets for Canadians for the games are being distributed in Canada through the 966 branches of the

Toronto-Dominion Bank. In other Commonwealth countries there are designated agents and information as to how to obtain tickets can be received by checking with a local carrier or a travel agent. Also Commonwealth Games Associations

in the various countries provide information.

If you wish to see the games, write to Commonwealth Games, P.O. Box 1978, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 5J5, or phone (403) 428-1978. □

Saskatchewan

How a battle divided Canada



by John Moore

The tiny settlement of Batoche became the unlikely site of a Canadian military action which launched the rapid development of the west and left deep scars which haunt Canadian unity to this day. You will find it, 100 miles east of North Battleford, on the boundary between the vast grass-covered plain of southern Saskatchewan and the great forest which covers the northern half of the province.

Batoche began as one of several Catholic missions which were founded to serve the Plains Indians and reduce the influence of unscrupulous white traders. Following the failure of the Red River Rebellion in 1869, 10,000 Métis migrated west and settled around the missions on the banks of the Saskatchewan River.

Convinced that the Métis would never receive justice from the new-formed government in Ottawa, Louis Riel persuaded them to raise the standard of rebellion at Batoche in 1885. Two battles, one at Duck Lake eight miles southeast of here, and the other at Batoche settled the fate of the Métis nation. Riel was tried and hanged in Regina. French Canadians were convinced that he was the hapless victim of Ontario protestantism and racial hatred. However, the partially completed CPR had moved an army west and kept it supplied. Proving to developers that they had the ideal means to transport thousands of settlers into the west and ship their agricultural output to eastern and European markets.

When rumours of the Métis uprising reached Winnipeg, a confident N.W.M.P. moved on Batoche to arrest Riel and his lieutenants. The detachment was ambushed and defeated by Gabriel Dumont's men at

Duck Lake. Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald responded by sending General Middleton and the Militia via the CPR. It was an undistinguished campaign with the rebels winning a series of skirmishes before the final four-day battle at Batoche. Dumont escaped to the U.S.A. where he joined Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show as a trick rider and sharpshooter.

Today, the battlefield is a national historic park. Part of Middleton's stockade, the rectory and St. Antoine de Padoue Church still stand, much

as they were nearly 100 years ago. The rectory's exterior walls are marked by bullet holes. It has been converted into a museum. Nearby, the cemetery contains the graves of several Métis heroes including that of Gabriel Dumont.

The Saskatchewan government has opened a museum at Duck Lake which displays Riel and Dumont memorabilia and military equipment used in the short-lived war. An 1895-style village, built by a Montréal film company, provides the nucleus of a 26-building restoration.



Manitoba

Trading post key to West

by John Moore

Twenty miles north of Winnipeg on the steep banks of the Red River stands the only stone fur-trading fort left in North America. Lower Fort Garry was a vital link in the fur trade and eventually became the key to the Canadian west.

Governor George Simpson ordered its construction in 1830 to replace an earlier fort upstream which had been destroyed by floods four years earlier. The enterprising traders encouraged early settlers to grow grain and cattle which reduced their dependence on costly supplies from the east. Lower Fort Garry supplied the needs of important posts such as York Factory, Norway House and Portage La Roche. It remained an

active trading post until closed in 1911. In 1951, the Hudson's Bay Company gave it to the Canadian government to become a national historic park.

In 1846, it was garrisoned by British soldiers who completed its fortifications during their two-year stay. The fort was again occupied by the militia when the Québec Rifles were stationed there following the Red River Rebellion in 1869. Lower Fort Garry was the first training centre for the Northwest Mounted Police. Later it became a penitentiary and then a lunatic asylum. These venerable walls had discouraged encroachment by American imperialism and sheltered the early French and English Red River settlers whose descendants formed the province of Manitoba.

You can see the Big House, fur loft, store, southeast bastion, several restored buildings and a Red River Settler's house. On display are fur trade and 19th century military artifacts. □