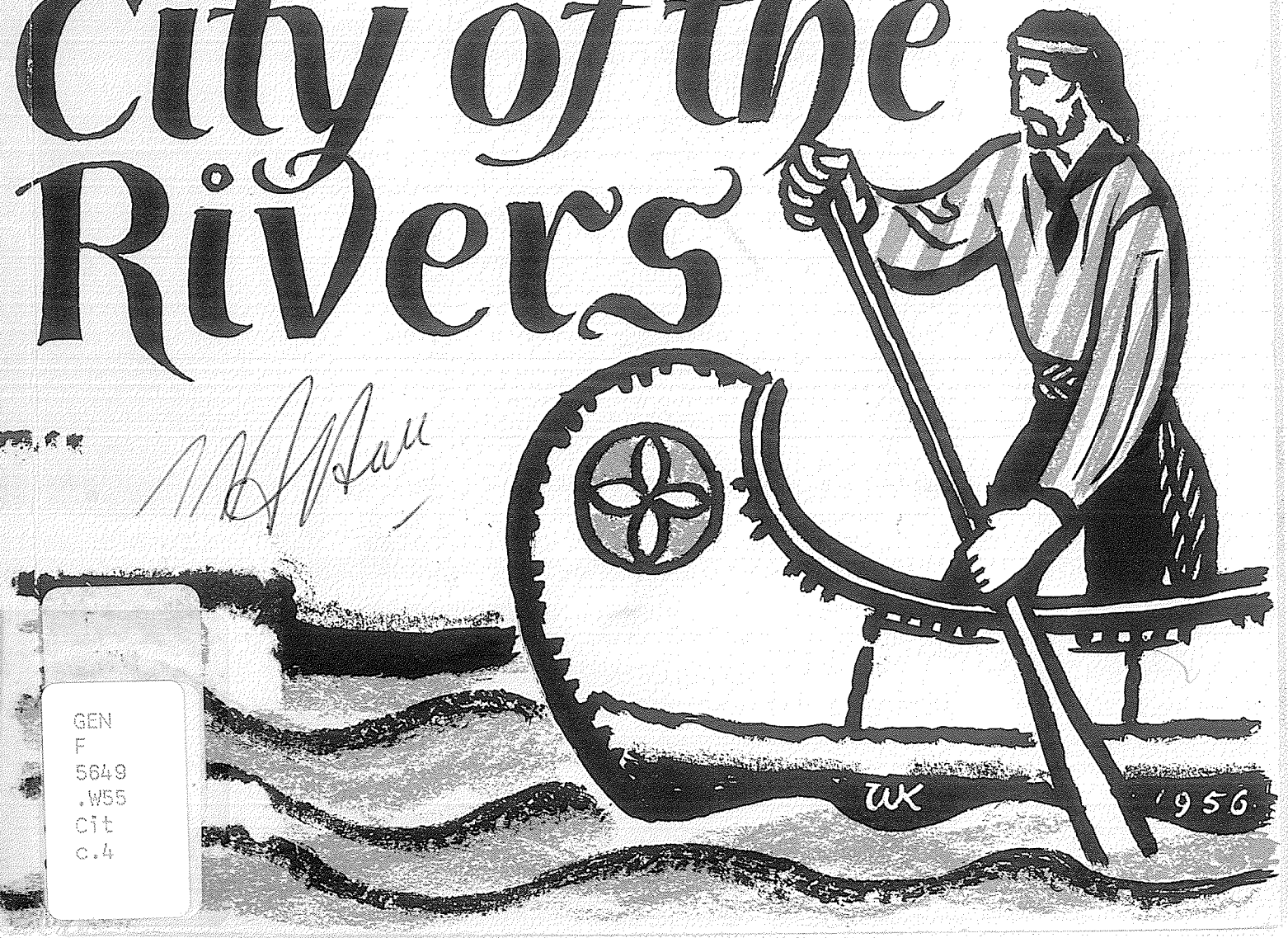
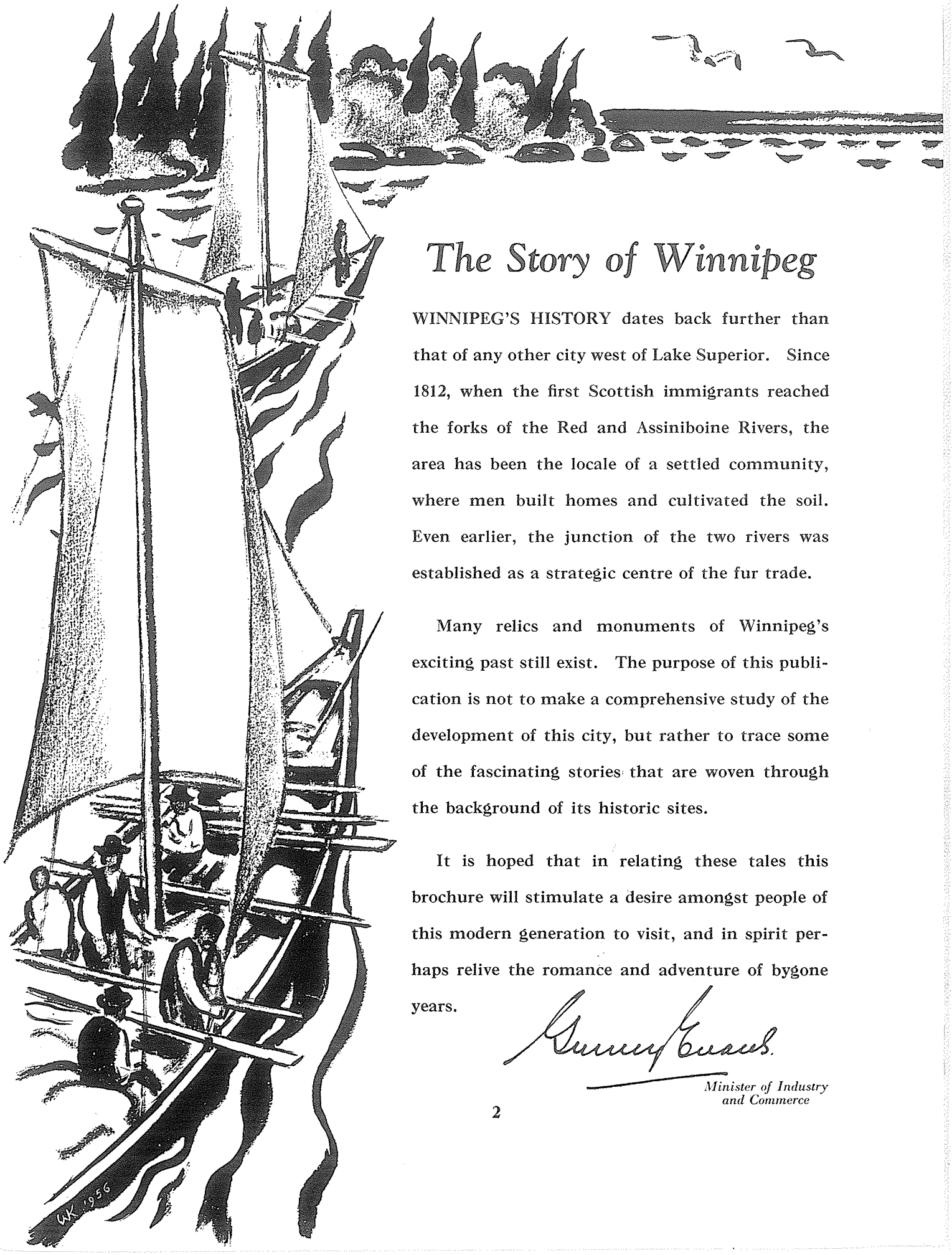
City of the Rivers



City of the Rivers

Illustrations by
WILHELM KAUFMANN
Winnipeg



The Story of Winnipeg

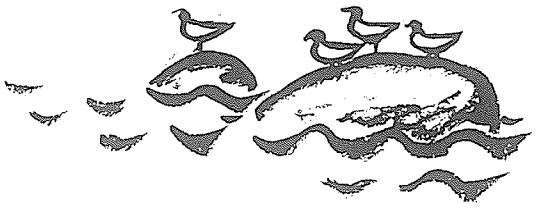
WINNIPEG'S HISTORY dates back further than that of any other city west of Lake Superior. Since 1812, when the first Scottish immigrants reached the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, the area has been the locale of a settled community, where men built homes and cultivated the soil. Even earlier, the junction of the two rivers was established as a strategic centre of the fur trade.

Many relics and monuments of Winnipeg's exciting past still exist. The purpose of this publication is not to make a comprehensive study of the development of this city, but rather to trace some of the fascinating stories that are woven through the background of its historic sites.

It is hoped that in relating these tales this brochure will stimulate a desire amongst people of this modern generation to visit, and in spirit perhaps relive the romance and adventure of bygone years.

Minister of Industry and Commerce

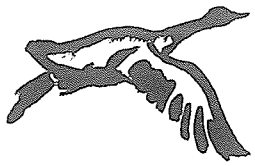
City of the Rivers



IT WAS THE RED RIVER that brought them, the men in the birch bark canoes and the men in the York boats.

At the forks of the Red and Assiniboine they built their forts and here a settlement was born.

In those far-off years the destiny of a city was shaped by the rivers—the Red, running northward toward Hudson Bay, and the Assiniboine, fur-traders' route to the western plains. The settlement grew up along their banks: the log cabins of the settlers, the little mission churches.



The outline of the early settlement survives in Winnipeg today. Portage Avenue was once the Portage Trail, following the Assiniboine on its curving journey to the west. The old Main Trail, that paralleled the Red and linked the parishes lying northward to St. Peter's, is now Main Street.

Their busy intersection in downtown Winnipeg is not far distant from The Forks, cross-roads of the great northwest, in the days when the rivers were the only highways.

The Old Forts

PIERRE GAULTIER DE LA VERENDRYE, explorer and fur trader in the days when Canada was French, is usually credited with having erected the first building on the site of the future city of Winnipeg. This was Fort Rouge, built in 1738 at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

According to La Verendrye's journal, however, it was a member of his party, De Louviere, who actually superintended the building of Fort Rouge. Little is now known of the structure. Like many of the early trading posts called "forts", it was intended mainly as a stopping-place and seems to have been abandoned early.

A number of posts are said to have followed Fort Rouge at The Forks but all were used only briefly. No trace of them remains and their exact locations are unknown.

Some time during the first decade of the nineteenth century—recent research indicates the year 1810—the North West Company established Fort Gibraltar. Believed to have stood on the north side of the Assiniboine where that river joins the Red, Gibraltar took a year to build and was surrounded by a high stockade of oak. It was the Company's chief provision depot in the interior and played a part in the early history of the Selkirk settlement.

The traders, opposed to the founding of an agricultural settlement at The Forks, made a determined effort to destroy the colony. As a result, in the spring of 1816 Fort Gibraltar was captured by the governor of the settlement, Robert Semple, and torn down. Shortly afterwards the Nor'Westers built new houses and stores on the old site. The "fort", however, was without any defensive enclosure, except two wooden bastions.

In 1821 the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies were amalgamated under the name of the former. The second Fort Gibraltar thus became a Hudson's Bay post. It was enlarged and renamed Fort Garry, after Nicholas Garry, a Company official.

That the fort was in a dilapidated condition in 1825 is shown by the description given of it by Alexander Ross, the early historian of the settlement, when he came to Red River in that year.

"Instead of a place walled and fortified, as I had expected," wrote Ross, "I saw nothing but a few wooden houses huddled together, without palisades, or any regard for taste or even comfort . . . Nor was the Governor's residence anything more in its outward appearance than the cottage of a humble farmer . . ." The following spring the fort was weakened still further by a disastrous flood.

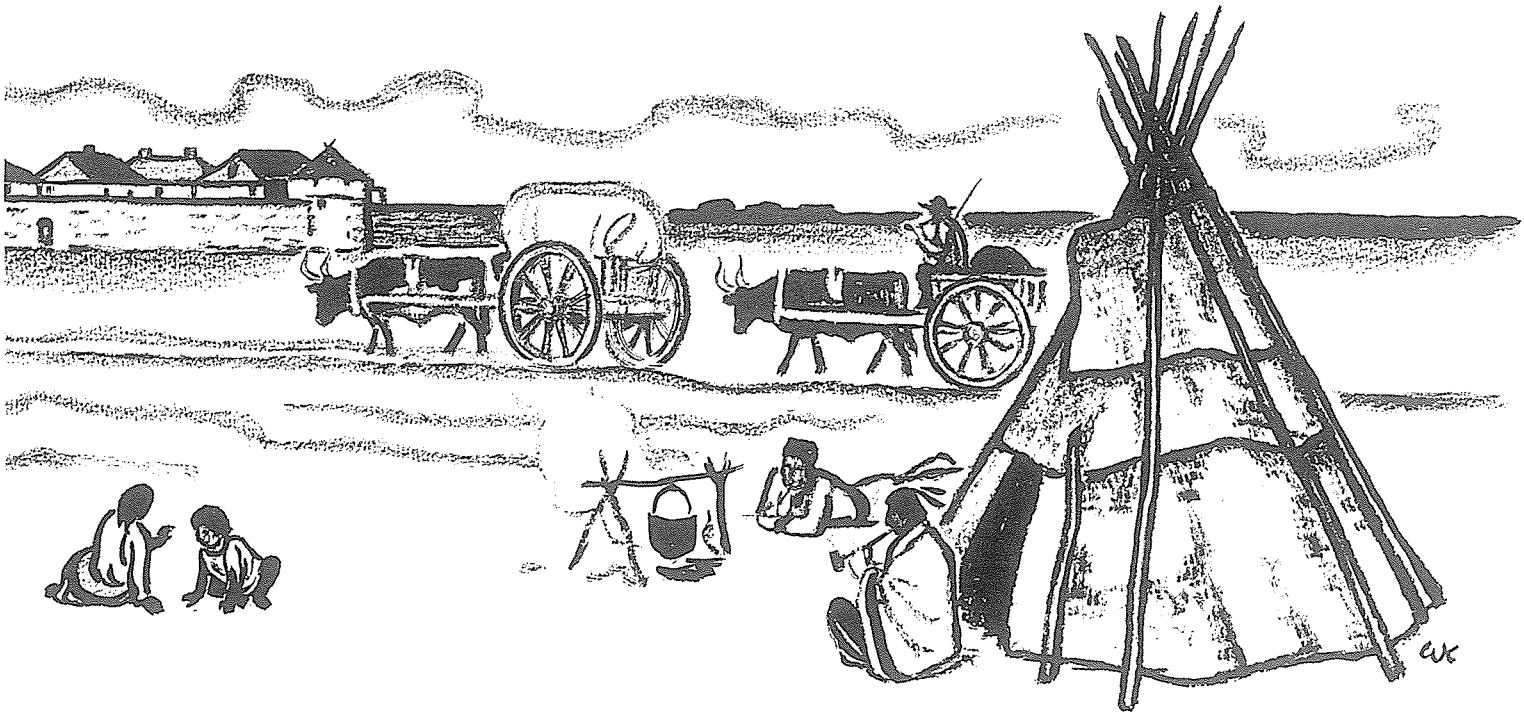
In 1831 Sir George Simpson, Hudson's Bay Company governor, began construction of a new and costly stone fort just below St. Andrew's Rapids on the Red River. The new establishment, named Lower Fort Garry and commonly called the Stone Fort, was completed in 1839. It still stands beside Number Nine Highway, nineteen miles north of Winnipeg.

Before the Stone Fort was completed, a new Upper Fort Garry had been built at The Forks near the location of the first, although a little further back from the Red. Erected in 1835, the fort was substantially built. Solid stone walls, with four large round bastions of solid masonry at the corners, enclosed a space 240 by 280 feet. Inside were officers' and employees' quarters, warehouses and a retail store. The large main gate faced the Assiniboine River and was not far removed from its bank. In 1850 the northern end was extended to include a governor's residence, the walls of the additional enclosure being of solid, square oak logs.

The second Fort Garry stood until 1882, at which time it was sold to the city of Winnipeg and demolished, with the exception of the northern gateway which had been added when the residence was built.

During most of the forty-seven years of its existence Upper Fort Garry was the Company's headquarters in western Canada. Within its walls met the Council of Assiniboia, governing body of the territory within a fifty-mile radius of The Forks. Several times British troops, sent to Red River at the request of the Company, were stationed there; and from 1857 to 1861 it was the headquarters of a detachment of the Royal Canadian Rifles.

For nine months during the period of the Red River uprising and the provisional government under Louis Riel, Fort Garry was occupied by Metis forces, who seized its ample stores of food and munitions. It was through a small postern gate in the eastern wall that Thomas Scott was led to his execution and shot near what is now the intersection of Main Street and Assiniboine Avenue. In 1870-71 some eight



hundred volunteers, who came west under Colonel Garnet Wolseley to establish order in Red River, were stationed at the Upper Fort, as well as at Lower Fort Garry.

Originally the public jail and courthouse were within the fort but in 1843 a new building was erected immediately adjoining it on the north side, the approximate location of the Fort Garry Hotel. Here, in 1849, was held the trial of Guillaume Sayer, when five hundred armed Metis surrounded the court house and the Company's ban on private trading in furs was successfully defied.

The governor's residence within the fort was the scene of many occasions of lavish hospitality. According to an account of a dinner party given in 1868, the menu included "oyster soup, white fish, roast beef, roast prairie chicken, green peas, tomatoes stewed, stewed gooseberries, plum pudding, blanc mange, raisins, nuts of all kinds, coffee, port and sherry, brandy punch and cigars." The writer concluded "There is a dinner for you, in the heart of the continent, with Indian skin lodges within a stone's throw!"

Today in small Fort Garry Park, off Main Street and in the rear of the Manitoba Club, may be seen Fort Garry's northern gateway, built in 1850. Within is a plaque, on which is outlined its history and that of the previous forts which stood near the same site. Main Street Bridge, which crosses the Assiniboine a block further south, is officially named "The Bridge of the Old Forts," in memory of the many trading posts which once stood nearby.

Meanwhile, in La Verendrye Park in St. Boniface is seen a memorial to the feats of the great explorer and his men—a heroic group of three bronze figures.

Lord Selkirk

The Selkirk Settlers

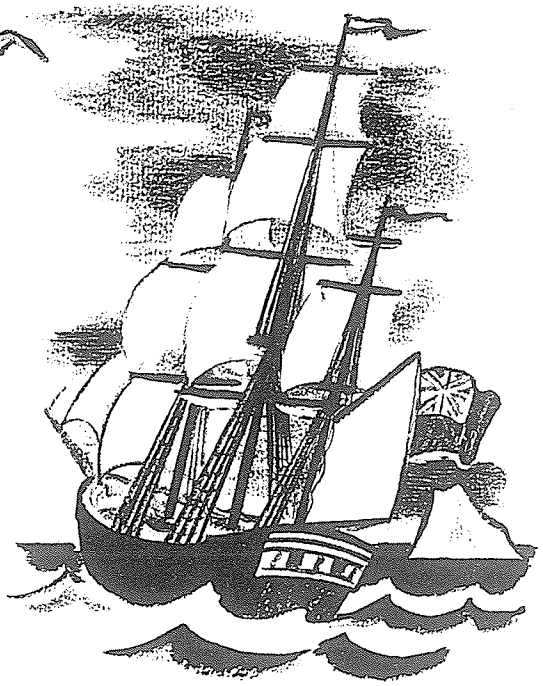
IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY an economic revolution was in progress in the Scottish Highlands. Crofters and fisherfolk were evicted from their homes, so that the large landowners might turn their estates into sheep-runs. To Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, the answer to his countrymen's distress lay in emigration. He therefore persuaded the Hudson's Bay Company, in which he held a controlling interest, to grant him some forty-five million acres of land in the Red River Valley. This huge tract, known as Assiniboia, was to be settled at his own expense.

In August, 1812, the first colonists arrived at The Forks and a site was chosen for the group of buildings later known as Fort Douglas. The lifetime of the fort was brief—some fourteen years, during which time it was burned and rebuilt—but, as the headquarters of the Selkirk colony, it was the foundation of the present Winnipeg.

Between 1812 and 1815 three more bands of settlers sailed from Scotland. Landing on the shores of Hudson Bay, they made the seven hundred mile journey through the wilderness to Red River. There, after erecting rough shelters, they broke the prairie sod with hoes and planted their small quantity of seed. Many existed, meanwhile, on roots and game. The early winters were spent at Pembina, village of the Metis buffalo-hunters, seventy miles south.

Before the coming of the colonists, the North West Company, rival fur traders to the Hudson's Bay men, had built Fort Gibraltar at The Forks. It was here that pemmican was stored for the Company's Athabasca and Pacific slope brigades. In a desperate move to feed his hungry settlers, the colony's governor, Miles McDonnell, issued a decree forbidding any trader to ship out food. He also seized six hundred bags of pemmican from the Company's Brandon House, some one hundred and thirty miles west.

From the start the Nor'Westers had opposed the founding of an agricultural settlement. Now their hostility flared up. Their first step was to woo the settlers



with a handsome offer: all who wished to leave would get free transportation to the east, a grant of land and provisions for a year. More than one hundred took the opportunity and left. Those who refused to go were driven from their homes and wintered miserably on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Fort Douglas was burned.

However, already on its way to Red River was another group of settlers, under a new governor, Robert Semple; and from Montreal came Selkirk's agent, Colin Robertson, with twenty men. The colony was re-established. In March, 1816, Semple tore down Fort Gibraltar, floating the timbers down the Red and using them in building the new Fort Douglas.

The settlement was to pay dearly for the governor's action, for the fur traders retaliated by arousing the Metis, mainly descendents of French Nor'-Westers and Indians. On June 19, sixty Metis clashed with Semple and thirty colonists and Hudson's Bay men in the Battle of Seven Oaks. Semple and twenty of the group were killed and Fort Douglas was surrendered.

Again it seemed as if the colony was beaten, but again help was to arrive. Selkirk himself had come to Montreal and hired a party of professional soldiers, the de Meurons. With about one hundred of these Swiss and German mercenaries, he had started west when the news of Seven Oaks reached him. Proceeding to the North West Company's grand depot at Fort William, he seized the post. The de Meurons pushed on early in the winter to Red River, where, on a cold, clear January night, they easily recaptured Fort Douglas. With the opening of river travel in the spring, Lord Selkirk arrived.

During his four-month visit, the only one he was to pay to the colony, the Earl made a treaty with the Indians. Land was surveyed, each settler receiving a strip two miles in length, with a narrow frontage on the Red. Lots were set aside for a church and school, and roads and bridges planned. The troubles of the colony were not yet over: there were still to come years of crop failure and hunger, and the great

disaster of the flood of 1826. But in the years following an era of prosperity began in Red River.

Lord Selkirk returned to Montreal, where a series of law suits with the North West Company awaited him. His health exhausted, he died in France in 1820. Fifteen years later his heirs resold Assiniboia to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fort Douglas was to suffer the fate of all the early wooden structures known as "forts", that of falling within a few years into decay. The property on which it stood, the buildings and a new grist-mill were bought in 1825 by a retired Nor'-Wester, Robert Logan. For many years the round, broad-based mill, with its great sails, stood like a tower on Point Douglas.

Today the historic significance of the fort is commemorated by a simple cairn in front of the Ross House in Sir William Whyte Park. It stands only a short distance north of the original location of Fort Douglas.

A statue of Lord Selkirk flanks the eastern entrance to Manitoba's Legislative Buildings; but the sculptured figure, gazing across the terraced lawns, is unnamed. In the fall of 1955 a unique memorial to the Earl was unveiled at the triangular intersection of The Mall and Colony Street. There a wall of Tyndall stone bearing a bronze plaque commemorates "the founder of Winnipeg."

St. John's Cathedral

THE EARLY FORTS have crumbled and the settlers' homes long since disappeared; but in certain churches and their graveyards, Winnipeg's historic past remains intact. One such church is found on Anderson Avenue, two short blocks removed from the traffic of Main Street—the Anglican cathedral of St. John's.

The grey stone building is the fourth church to occupy the site since the Rev. John West opened the first Protestant mission house in 1822. The log structure served also as a school house and may be regarded as the predecessor of St. John's College. Even older than the small mission, however, is the cemetery, established in 1812 by the first group of Scots to reach Red River. It was on this spot that Lord Selkirk gathered his settlers together for a conference, when he visited the colony in 1817.

Between the cathedral and the river is the oldest section of the churchyard. Here, where sunlight slants through leafy branches, the inscriptions on the stones read like a record of the pioneer past. Such names as McDermot, Logan, Machray and Inkster are here; and, as the names of streets or schools, they are perpetuated elsewhere in this long-established district of the city.

Near the cemetery's east gate, a monument of limestone surmounted by red granite tells a pioneer story of a different sort—the heart-touching tale of a half-breed mother and her son.

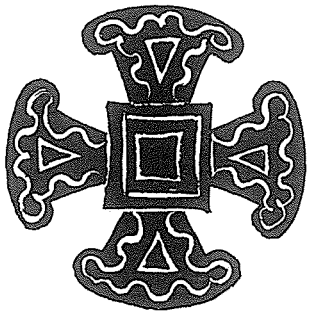
Rev. John West

Daughter of a Hudson's Bay trader and his Indian wife, Margaret Nahovway Sinclair married a Company trader, William Sinclair. One by one, her sons left her, to be educated in Scotland. Finally, only Colin, the youngest, remained. Margaret, widowed by her husband's death in 1818, begged to keep him. But in 1825 Colin was taken on a visit to York Factory, where he went aboard a ship that lay at anchor. The boy excitedly explored the vessel, then fell asleep. The ship's captain, knowing how dear to William Sinclair had been the dream of having his son educated in Edinburgh, allowed the boy to remain. So Colin sailed for Scotland.

Seventy-two years passed before Colin, an old man of eighty-one, returned to Red River. In St. John's churchyard, where his long-dead mother was buried, he erected the monument bearing the inscription "from her wandering boy". Four years later his own epitaph was added to the stone.

The present cathedral, dating back only to the mid-twenties of this century, is a relative latecomer to the historic spot. But incorporated in its walls are stones taken from the "old cathedral," consecrated by Bishop David Anderson, the first bishop of Rupert's Land, in 1862. The three bells which hang in the cathedral tower were brought from England that same year.

Much admired by visitors are the stained glass windows, the oak pulpit, with its intricate hand-carving, and the font of Italian marble. On the walls, meanwhile, hang memorial tablets, dating back to well over one hundred years.



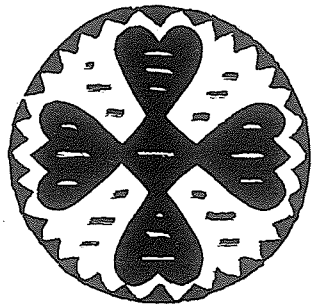
The Settlers' Friend

Chief Peguis

ON THE northern outskirts of the city begin the ninety-eight acres of Kildonan Park, one of the loveliest and most natural of the parks of Winnipeg. It has Rainbow Stage, the open-air theatre where, on summer nights, crowds gather to listen to music beneath the stars. There is the pavilion, the picnic grounds, the lily pond beside the rustic foot-bridge. There are also quiet by-ways, where one may wander beneath tall elms, the last of the great elm forest which once covered the river banks. Or one may watch the Red slip silently by and, in imagination, recall the days when the Indians made an encampment each summer in this area and celebrated the pagan rites of the Dog Meat Feast.

The southern section of the park was the property of William Bannerman, one of the original Selkirk settlers. The small creek now crossed by the rustic bridge ran through the farm. To the north of the pavilion is a statue of the Indian chief Peguis, leader of the Saulteaux. "Peguis," said Lord Selkirk in 1817, "has been a steady friend of the settlement and has never deserted its cause in its greatest reverses."

Two days before the Battle of Seven Oaks he offered the services of some seventy of his men to Governor Semple but the offer of assistance was declined. The morning following the massacre, it was Peguis who brought the bodies of the fallen to Fort Douglas. One of the first Indian converts to Christianity, he is buried beside the century-old church of St. Peter's Dynevor between Selkirk and Netley Creek.



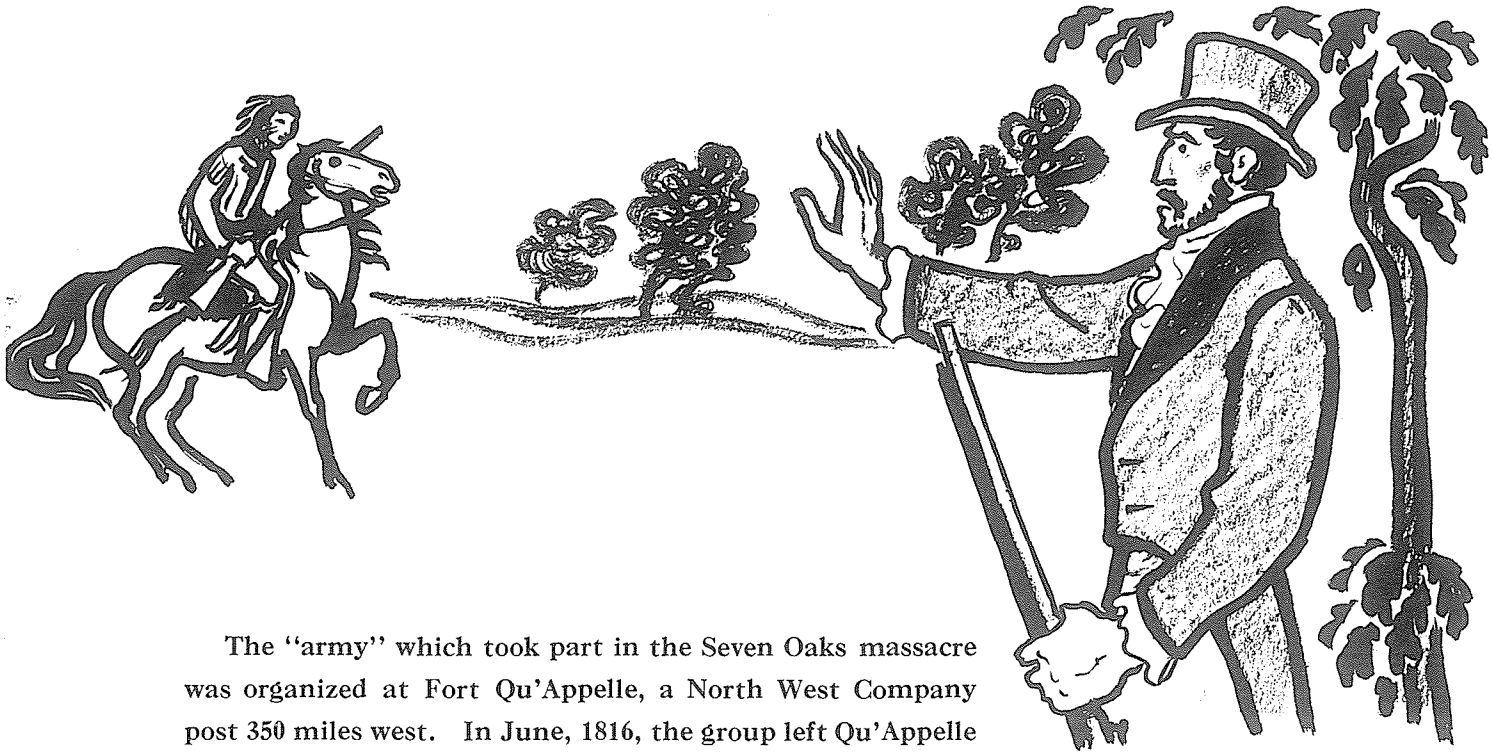
The Tragedy of Seven Oaks

NEAR where St. John's Cathedral stands is the point where the long, narrow farms of the Selkirk settlers began. Each with its frontage on the Red, the lots extended down river for four miles, with the small wooden houses lying side by side. At first the homes were primitive, being rough log dwellings twenty or thirty feet long and having only two rooms. Later came stone foundations, partitions, shingle roofs and glass windows. In 1817 Lord Selkirk named the district Kildonan, after the Scottish parish of Kildonan, from which many of the settlers had come.

Some fourteen blocks north of the cathedral a shaft stands in a tiny park close by Main Street. The monument marks the site of the Battle of Seven Oaks. It was here, where seven oak trees once grew, that on the evening of June 19, 1816, Governor Robert Semple and a group of Hudson's Bay men and settlers were killed by a large band of Metis.

The Metis—or Bois-Brules, after their "burnt wood" hue of skin—were mainly the descendents of French voyageurs of the North West Company. These men had taken Indian wives and settled on the shore of a river or lake in the fur country. For more than half the nineteenth century, the "mixed-bloods" were considered the finest boatmen, guides, hunters, trappers and traders on the northwest prairies.

When the Nor'Westers determined to destroy the Selkirk colony, they told the Metis that the settlers would drive them away from the land which was rightfully their own. The concept of ownership of land was foreign to the Metis mind, as to the Indian, but they quickly responded.



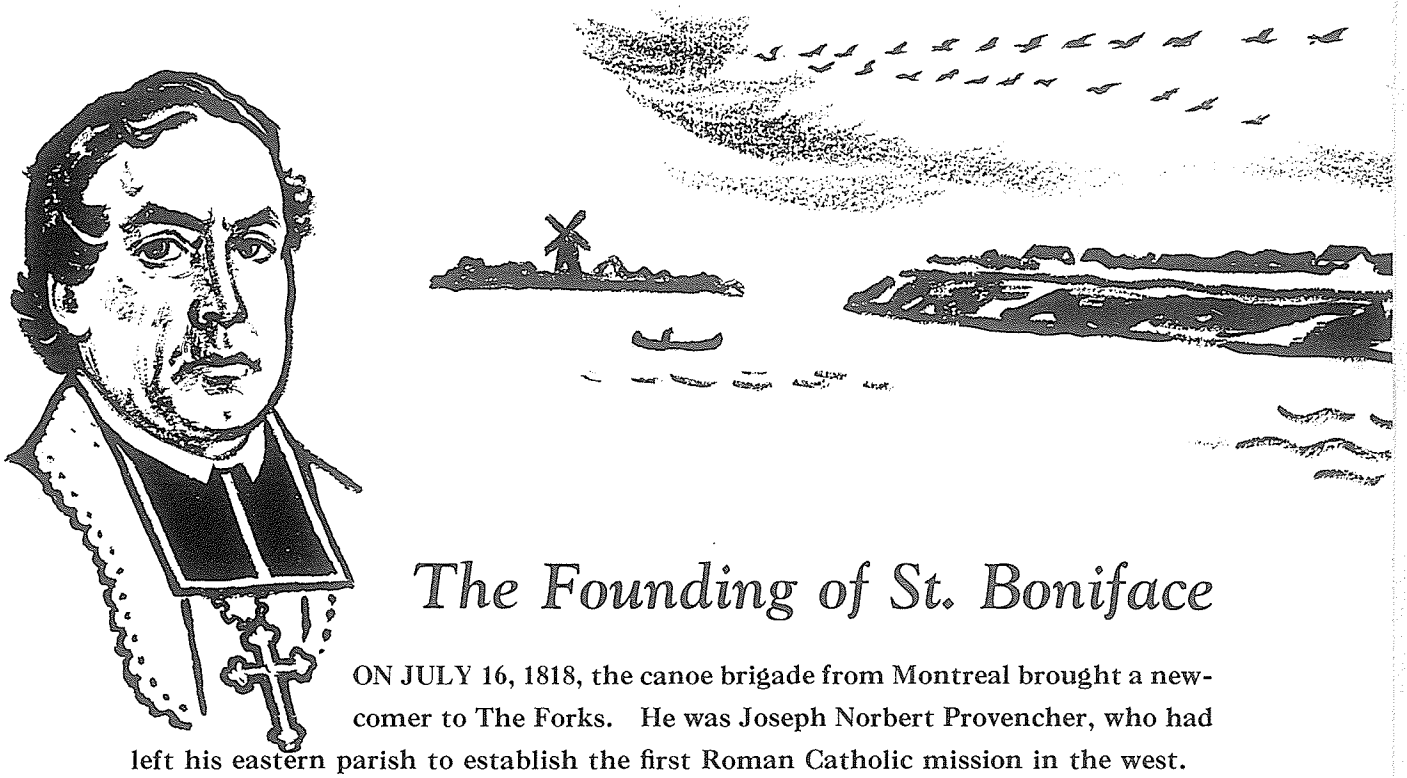
The "army" which took part in the Seven Oaks massacre was organized at Fort Qu'Appelle, a North West Company post 350 miles west. In June, 1816, the group left Qu'Appelle under the command of Cuthbert Grant, a 19-year-old Metis, who had been educated in Montreal and Scotland. A natural leader of his people, Grant later became known as the "Warden of the Plains".

Early on the evening of the nineteenth a band of sixty riders was sighted from Fort Douglas, where a look-out had been posted because of persistent rumors that the settlement was to be attacked. Contrary to their usual practice, the Metis were painted in the manner of an Indian war party, as they approached down the Portage Trail, now Winnipeg's Portage Avenue. Governor Semple, with thirty men, rode out to intercept them.

It soon became evident that the governor's party was dangerously outnumbered. Semple sent back to the fort for reinforcements and also for a cannon, but pressed on without awaiting their arrival.

Before long he found his group confronted by a half-moon of Metis, who quietly surrounded the white men. There was a brief altercation, a shot rang out and, within minutes, the governor and twenty of his group were dead. The others were taken prisoner. The terrified settlers, who had sought refuge in Fort Douglas, surrendered. The fort and all the property were delivered to Cuthbert Grant, who took possession in the name of the North West Company. Once again the unfortunate settlers set out for Lake Winnipeg.

The eventual recapture of Fort Douglas and the return of the colonists has been described. However, the tragedy of Seven Oaks remains one of the darkest pages in the annals of the Red River settlement.



The Founding of St. Boniface

ON JULY 16, 1818, the canoe brigade from Montreal brought a newcomer to The Forks. He was Joseph Norbert Provencher, who had left his eastern parish to establish the first Roman Catholic mission in the west.

Father Provencher, wrote Bishop Plessis of Quebec, was perhaps lacking in "certain of the qualities befitting a bishop destined to live among people of fashion." But the young priest, then thirty years of age, possessed the patience, energy and zeal, which were to make him one of Red River's greatest pioneers.

On the east bank of the river opposite Fort Gibraltar, he began construction of a temporary structure to serve as church, school and house. The log building was situated on a grant of land given him by Lord Selkirk, at whose request he had come to the colony.

In a letter written shortly after his arrival, Provencher was enthusiastic in his praise of the "beautiful" country. But years later he described another aspect of the settlement of that early time.

"The colony, devastated as it had been by the troubles of preceding years, was the picture of desolation." At the table of the governor at Fort Douglas, "there was neither bread nor vegetables, only buffalo meat . . . and a small amount of fish; there was no milk, no butter, and often neither tea nor sugar." In addition, the summer of 1818 had brought a plague of grasshoppers, which had destroyed the crops.

A few weeks later, therefore, when Provencher was followed by a group of settlers from Quebec, he sent them on to Pembina. A church and school were soon established in the Metis village; and for the next four years, all years of crop failure and famine at Red River, there the settlers remained.

At The Forks, meanwhile, Provencher began a chapel, which he completed in 1820. As the disbanded soldiers of the de Meuron regiment, who had settled on the east

bank of the Red, were German Catholics, he placed the church under the patronage of Germany's great apostle, Saint Boniface.

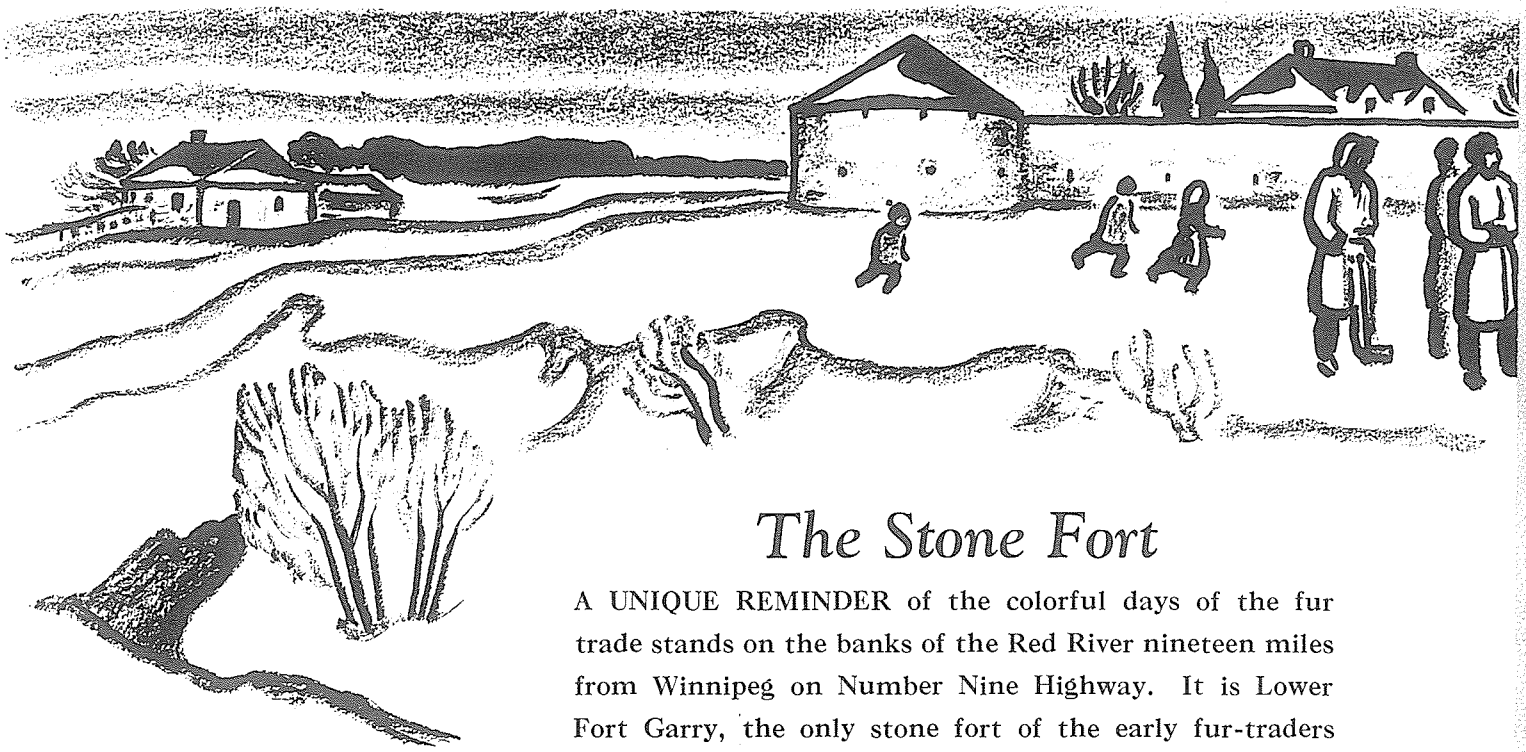
Provencher now made a great decision, that of dedicating his life to mission work in Red River. After being consecrated as Bishop of Juliopolis in Three Rivers, he came back to the wild and far-off country, henceforth to be his home. On his return, he learned that the thriving Pembina mission must be withdrawn, for it was believed to be on American soil. With deep regret, he left his church and school, and brought his people to Red River.

The years that followed were ones of unceasing effort for the Bishop, who labored untiringly among the French, Metis and Indians. The value of his services was recognized by the Hudson's Bay Company, which in 1825 passed a resolution that the Catholic mission receive an annual grant of money. As a member of the Council of Assiniboia, Provencher became one of Governor Simpson's most trusted advisers.

In 1829 he erected an Archbishop's Palace and commenced to build a new cathedral, the stone structure, with its "turrets twain", immortalized by Whittier.

But his arduous life had prematurely aged the Bishop. In 1851 an assistant was appointed to Red River. He was Alexander Tache, who was to build upon the foundations which Provencher had laid so well. Two years later, at the age of sixty-five, Provencher died. Mourned by Catholics and Protestants alike, he was laid to rest beneath his beloved cathedral.

Today in the city of St. Boniface, the magnificent basilica rises beside the river, where the first log church once stood. Western Canada's largest cathedral, the Roman Byzantine structure dates back to 1908. Close by on Tache Avenue is one of the west's oldest buildings, the Grey Nuns' Provincial House, built by Provencher in 1845.



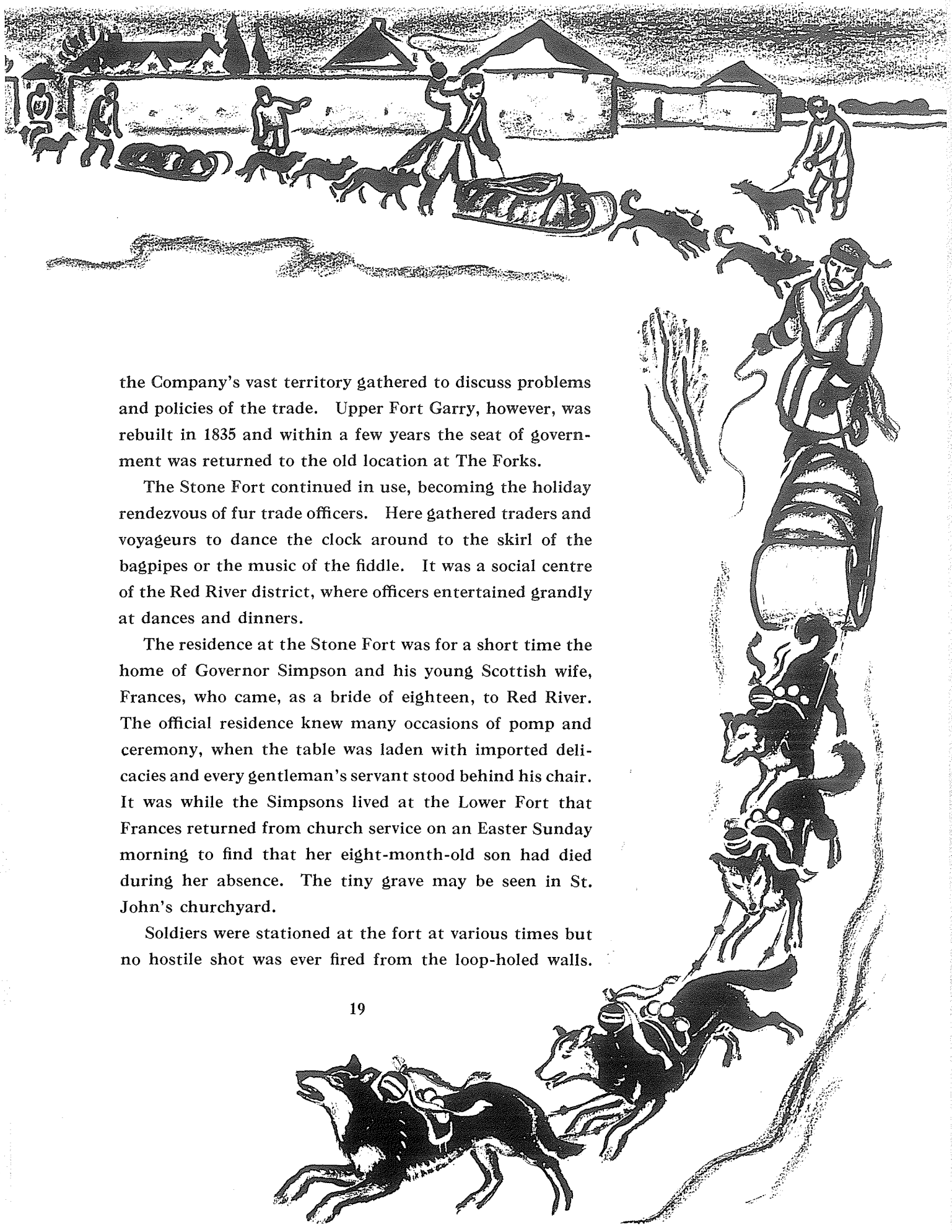
The Stone Fort

A UNIQUE REMINDER of the colorful days of the fur trade stands on the banks of the Red River nineteen miles from Winnipeg on Number Nine Highway. It is Lower Fort Garry, the only stone fort of the early fur-traders to be found intact anywhere in North America.

The Lower Fort—as distinguished from Upper Fort Garry, whose gateway is still seen in downtown Winnipeg—is rich in memory and tradition. It was built on the order of Sir George Simpson, Hudson's Bay Company governor, who chose the site. The Upper Fort had fallen into disrepair, so Sir George determined to build a strong new establishment below St. Andrew's rapids. Construction began in the summer of 1831 and was completed eight years later.

The massive walls—seven-and-a-half feet high and three feet thick—were of stone quarried from the river bank. They enclosed four-and-a-half acres of ground, now laid out in smooth green lawns and flower beds. Builder of the stone work was Duncan McRae, who also worked on the now famous church, St. Andrew's on-the-Red.

For a short time the Stone Fort, as it was called, was headquarters of the Company. Here were held the annual council meetings, when factors from posts scattered over



the Company's vast territory gathered to discuss problems and policies of the trade. Upper Fort Garry, however, was rebuilt in 1835 and within a few years the seat of government was returned to the old location at The Forks.

The Stone Fort continued in use, becoming the holiday rendezvous of fur trade officers. Here gathered traders and voyageurs to dance the clock around to the skirl of the bagpipes or the music of the fiddle. It was a social centre of the Red River district, where officers entertained grandly at dances and dinners.

The residence at the Stone Fort was for a short time the home of Governor Simpson and his young Scottish wife, Frances, who came, as a bride of eighteen, to Red River. The official residence knew many occasions of pomp and ceremony, when the table was laden with imported delicacies and every gentleman's servant stood behind his chair. It was while the Simpsons lived at the Lower Fort that Frances returned from church service on an Easter Sunday morning to find that her eight-month-old son had died during her absence. The tiny grave may be seen in St. John's churchyard.

Soldiers were stationed at the fort at various times but no hostile shot was ever fired from the loop-holed walls.

Frances, Lady Simpson

Sir George Simpson

In 1871, the year after Manitoba became a province, an important pact was signed just outside the gates: the first treaty between the Dominion government and the Indians. On that occasion more than one thousand Chippewas and Swampy Crees camped in the area, while their chiefs negotiated with government officials. As the taking-off point for the north, the fort was visited by men who set off down the Red River to discover new rivers and new coastlines.

From 1850 on, the bell which still hangs in front of the residence ruled the lives of all connected with the fort. It called to work and to meals some sixty Hudson's Bay employees—storekeepers and clerks, farm men and carpenters, workers from the sawmill and brewery, and many others. To voyageurs and traders bringing furs from the north, its sound meant the end of the journey. Its peals echoed as brigades of canoes or York boats swept up to the landing, or as dog teams loaded with furs dashed in through the big gate.

In 1911 the Hudson's Bay Company sent out its last dog sled with supplies for the northern posts and two years later, the Stone Fort was leased to the Motor Country Club, as a means of ensuring its maintenance. It has since been presented by the Company to the Canadian government as "a gift to the nation." Although still under lease to the club, it may be visited by sightseers on guide-conducted tours.

An Explorer's Fate

NEAR THE RED RIVER on the far side of St. John's Park a large stone monument commemorates the achievements of Thomas Simpson, Hudson's Bay Company employee who carried out important explorations of the Arctic. Simpson's body might have rested in St. John's cemetery close by but he died under suspicion of having murdered two men and shot himself. His death and the tragic events preceeding it constitute one of the unsolved mysteries of the early west.

Born in the Scottish highlands, Simpson attended Aberdeen University, from which he graduated with the highest honors. He then accepted the offer of a position with the Hudson's Bay Company, of which his cousin, Sir George Simpson, was governor. Coming to Fort Garry, he worked as Sir George's secretary and later as a bookkeeper.

The young Scot was to find a task more suited to his adventurous spirit. Between 1836 and '39 he was sent to the far north, where he explored hitherto uncharted areas of the Arctic coastline. For his discoveries, he was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society and a pension of one hundred pounds a year from the British government.

Simpson was never to learn of these honors. Sir George, unwilling that his cousin's achievements should overshadow his own, is said to have taken measures which resulted in his mail never reaching him. In the summer of 1840, having returned to Fort Garry, Thomas Simpson set out for England by way of the United States. His intention was to request the London headquarters of the Company to allow him to return to the Arctic for further exploration.

On the plains of what is now Minnesota a party of five, including Simpson, made camp in the late June twilight. Suddenly, shots rang out and Simpson was seen standing above the bodies of two of his companions. The remaining two fled to a larger camp some miles away.

In the morning they returned with four others. A shot was heard and a bullet whistled through the air, whereupon all fired. Cautiously approaching, they discovered Simpson's body, still warm. It was agreed that he had died by his own hand and all three bodies were hastily buried in a shallow grave.

That was the story told by witnesses and accepted as the truth; but much was left unexplained. What quarrel occasioned the shooting? Did only Simpson draw his gun and fire? Might he not have been wounded in the evening affray and killed during the random firing of the following morning?

The affair was closed with a minimum of investigation and a year passed before Simpson's body was brought to Fort Garry. This was done then only because word was received that wolves had dug open the grave. It was too late, a coroner reported, for any conclusive examination.

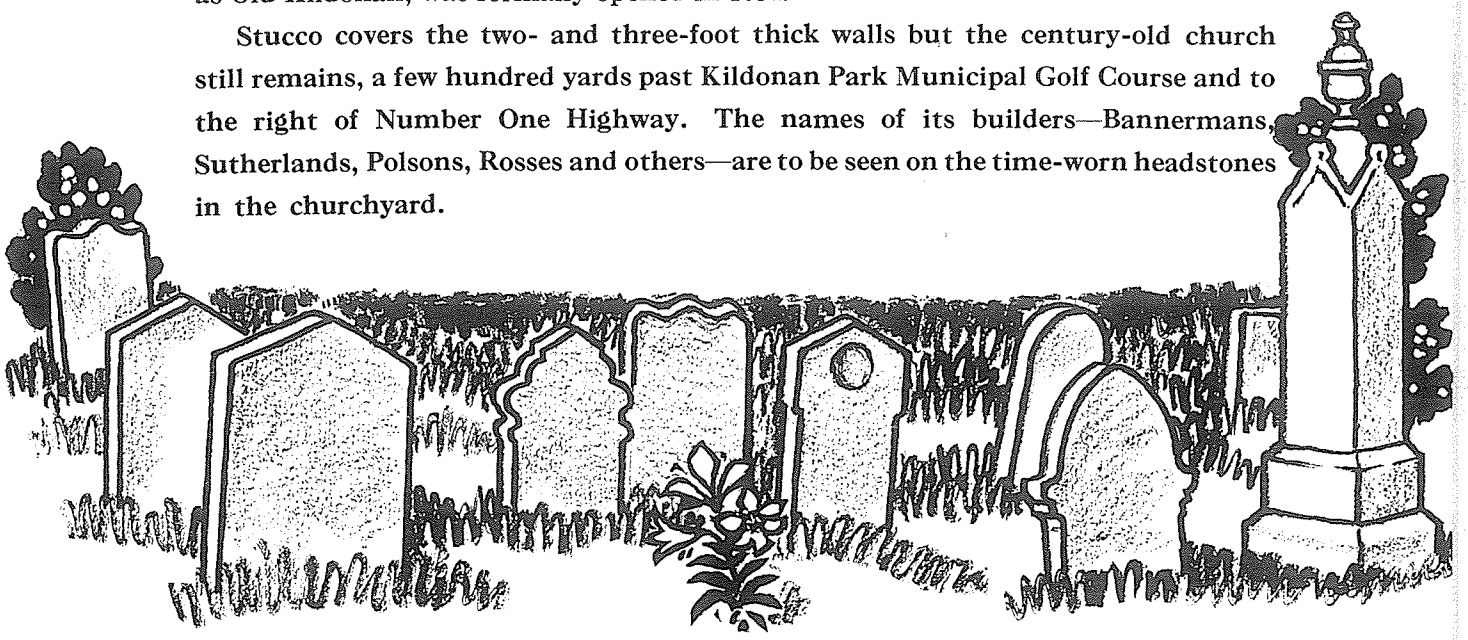
No stick or stone marked Simpson's final resting place, although he is said to have been buried outside the wall of St. John's churchyard. Many years passed before efforts were made to uncover the facts and to revise the record of the intrepid explorer's fate. It is unlikely that the truth of what happened that night far out on the lonely prairie will ever be known; but the name of Thomas Simpson has finally been accorded some of the honor it so rightfully deserves.

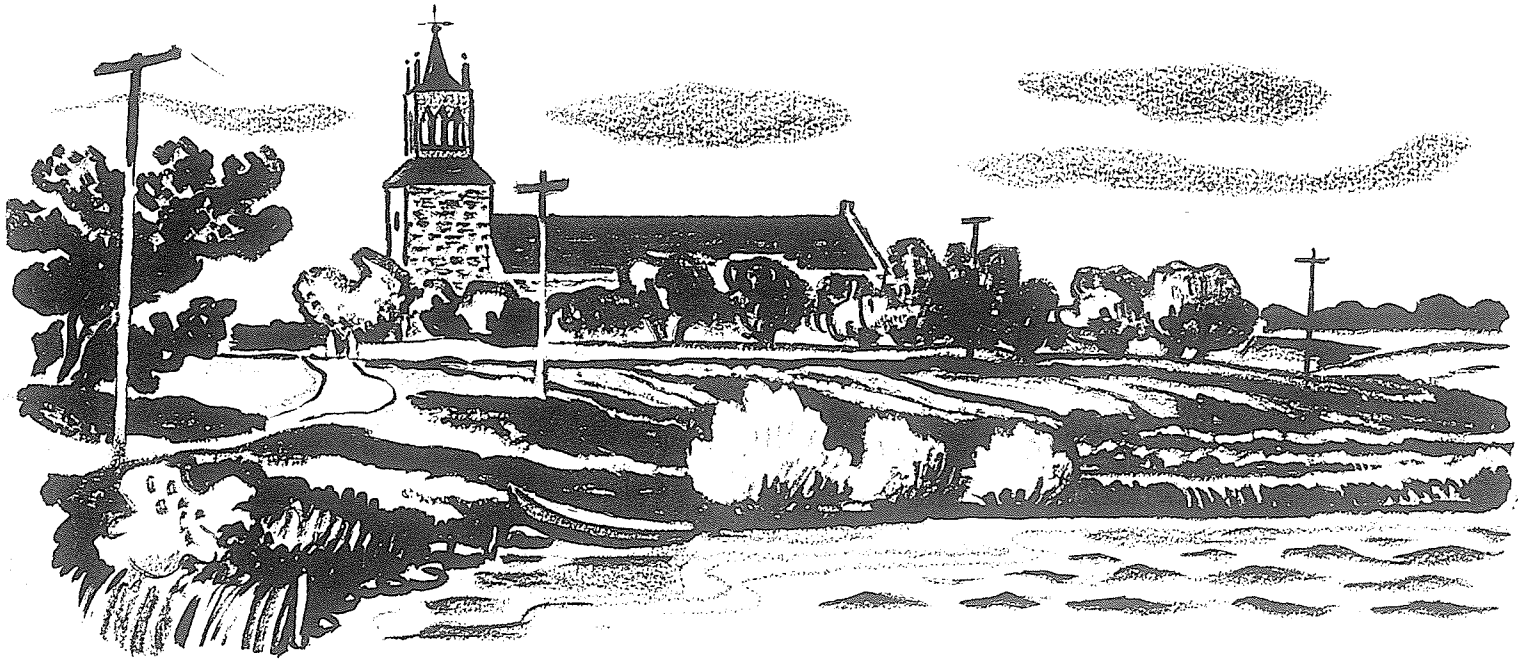
Old Kildonan

ALMOST FORTY YEARS passed before the Scottish settlers on the Red were sent a minister of their own Presbyterian faith. During those years they attended the Church of England services at St. John's, walking up from their river-front homes on Sunday mornings, the women dressed in blue cloaks and wearing high-crowned mutches tied beneath their chins. Meanwhile, the Anglican ritual was modified to bring it closer to the simple service of the Presbyterian Scots.

In 1851 the Rev. John Black came to the settlement and his happy congregation, numbering some three hundred people, set about building the west's first Presbyterian church. Stone was laboriously drawn from fifteen miles across the plains and pine brought from the ridges east of the Red River. The church, now known as Old Kildonan, was formally opened in 1854.

Stucco covers the two- and three-foot thick walls but the century-old church still remains, a few hundred yards past Kildonan Park Municipal Golf Course and to the right of Number One Highway. The names of its builders—Bannermans, Sutherlands, Polsons, Rosses and others—are to be seen on the time-worn headstones in the churchyard.





St. Andrew's On-The-Red

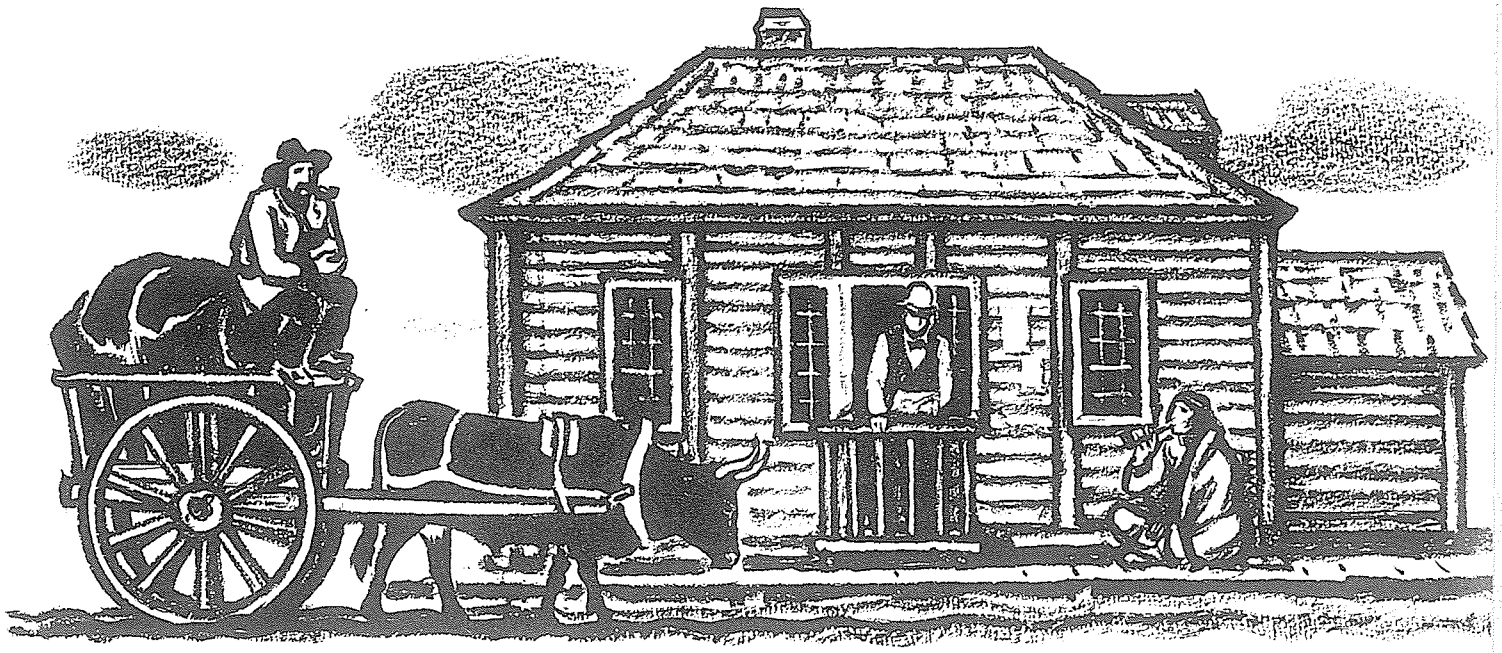
THE OLDEST STONE CHURCH continuously in use in western Canada is found twelve miles north of Winnipeg and a half-mile to the east off Number One Highway. It is St. Andrew's on-the-Red, erected in 1849.

Its founder was Archdeacon William Cockran, a man of unswerving will and giant stature, who built a chain of missions from St. Peter's, north of Selkirk, to Portage la Prairie.

The picturesque site of St. Andrew's was loved by Cockran. At one time his own home stood there. Many years later, while living at Portage la Prairie, he asked that he be buried by the church on the Red. At his death his coffin was carried the seventy miles on men's shoulders, for to have placed it on a vehicle would have been a sign of disrespect. Inside the churchyard gate his headstone may be seen.

A log church built in 1831 preceded the stone St. Andrew's, whose building was a project of the whole community. In charge of the work was Duncan McRae, a stone mason from the Hebrides, who also built Lower Fort Garry. McRae fell from the scaffold while working on St. Andrew's and was an invalid the remainder of his life. Within the building the original fixtures are still in use. They include kneeling benches covered with buffalo hide, worn thin by generations of worshippers.

The story of St. Andrew's would be incomplete without mention of its first minister, young John Smithurst, who came from London to Red River in 1839. He had long been in love with his cousin, Florence Nightingale, the Lady with the Lamp, but convention forbade the cousins to marry. For twelve years Smithurst preached the gospel to the Saulteaux and Swampy Crees of the Indian settlement below Selkirk.



The Rosses

A NUMBER OF STREETS in Winnipeg were named for members of the family: they included Ross, William, James and Jemima, although the latter has since been changed to Elgin.

Alexander Ross, who came to the prairies from the Pacific coast in 1825, was one-time sheriff of Assiniboia, and first historian of the Red River settlement. It was descendants of Alexander who sold to Winnipeg the land on which the City Hall stands, the property being part of the Sheriff's original river-lot farm.

Finally, a son, William Ross, became the first postmaster of the settlement. He held the position for little more than a year, until his death at the age of thirty-one, but it is perhaps chiefly through William that the name Ross lives today as part of the modern city. Winnipeggers have only to visit Sir William Whyte Park across from the C.P.R. station, to see the log cabin which was William's home and in which he conducted the business of the first post office.

The Ross House, as the cottage is known, did not always stand on the spot. It was built close to Sheriff Ross's own home, "Colony Gardens", facing the river at the foot of the long farm. William began construction of the house in 1852 but the great flood of that spring interrupted the work and it was not completed for two years. The post office opened officially on March 1, 1855. In addition to the post-master, the staff included Roger Goulet, who carried the mail to Pembina.

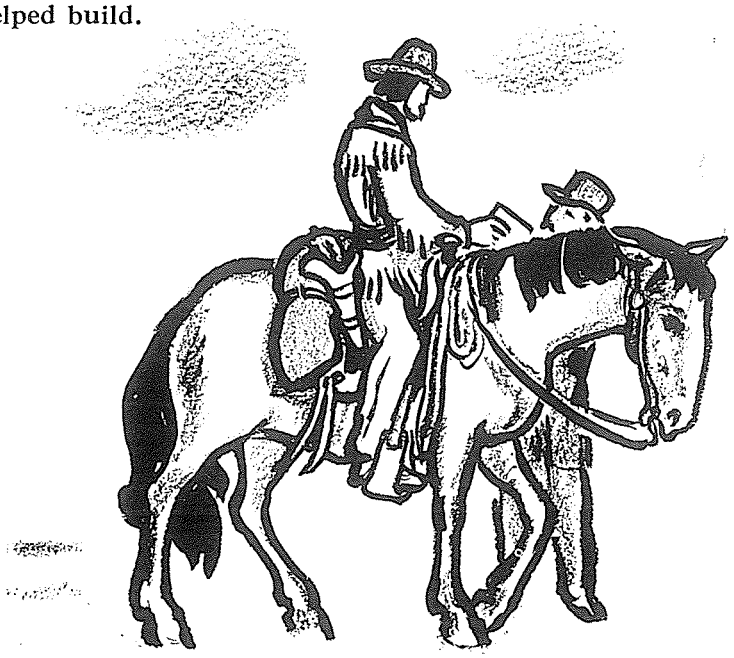
Some fourteen months after the mail service was established, William Ross died suddenly. The entire settlement followed the coffin to Kildonan churchyard. In 1859, following a succession of postmasters, a brother, James, took over.

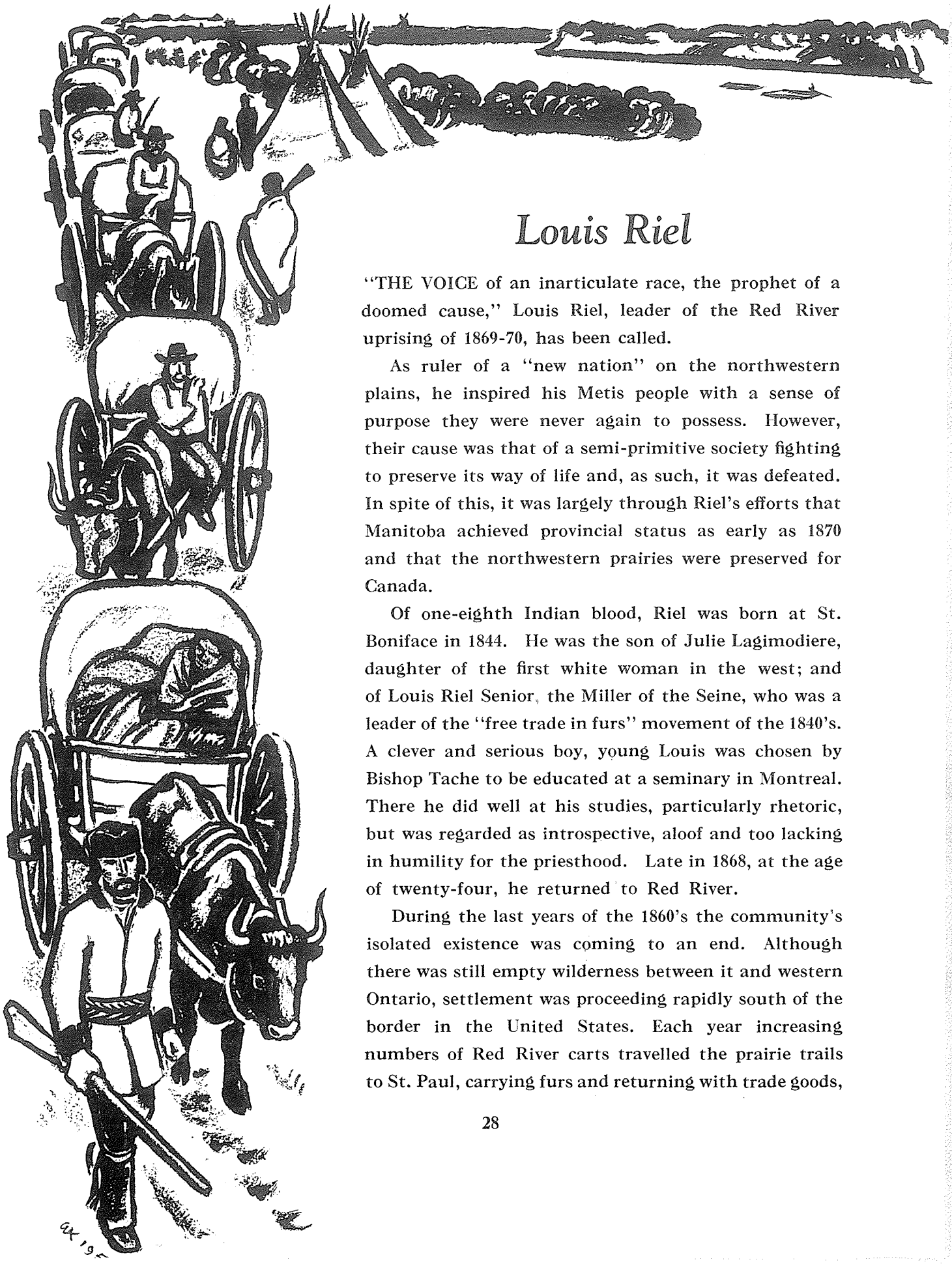
James held the position for three years. In 1860 he became editor of the west's first newspaper, the Nor'Wester, his partner in the venture being the paper's founder, William Coldwell, who later married Jemima, William Ross's widow. The Nor'-Wester was opposed to rule by the Council of Assiniboia and in favor of annexation to Canada. As a result of James' vigorous denunciation of the Council, the body which had appointed him postmaster, he was dismissed from the office. The Ross House, meanwhile, was occupied for many years by Jemima and William Coldwell.

As the years passed, the grounds on which "Colony Gardens" had stood became part of a wholesale district. The Sheriff's home disappeared but the log house built by William remained, lost among surrounding warehouses. For about forty years it was the office of a lumber company.

In 1948 the shabby little building on Market Street was moved to its present site. There the siding which covered it was removed and its squared logs, carefully dove-tailed at the corners, were once more revealed. It now exists as a small museum, having been furnished in the style of its pioneer period, with hand-made chairs, braided rugs, a spool bed with gay red and white patchwork quilt, a Carron stove and a desk used by William Ross. A bronze plaque on its wall commemorates Sheriff Alexander Ross.

Thus the Ross House lives on, a reminder of a bygone day in the city which its owners helped build.





Louis Riel

"THE VOICE of an inarticulate race, the prophet of a doomed cause," Louis Riel, leader of the Red River uprising of 1869-70, has been called.

As ruler of a "new nation" on the northwestern plains, he inspired his Metis people with a sense of purpose they were never again to possess. However, their cause was that of a semi-primitive society fighting to preserve its way of life and, as such, it was defeated. In spite of this, it was largely through Riel's efforts that Manitoba achieved provincial status as early as 1870 and that the northwestern prairies were preserved for Canada.

Of one-eighth Indian blood, Riel was born at St. Boniface in 1844. He was the son of Julie Lagimodiere, daughter of the first white woman in the west; and of Louis Riel Senior, the Miller of the Seine, who was a leader of the "free trade in furs" movement of the 1840's. A clever and serious boy, young Louis was chosen by Bishop Tache to be educated at a seminary in Montreal. There he did well at his studies, particularly rhetoric, but was regarded as introspective, aloof and too lacking in humility for the priesthood. Late in 1868, at the age of twenty-four, he returned to Red River.

During the last years of the 1860's the community's isolated existence was coming to an end. Although there was still empty wilderness between it and western Ontario, settlement was proceeding rapidly south of the border in the United States. Each year increasing numbers of Red River carts travelled the prairie trails to St. Paul, carrying furs and returning with trade goods,

implements and whisky. Much of the fur trade was illegal but the Hudson's Bay Company found it impossible to enforce its monopoly. In 1869, the year in which prairie freight traffic reached its peak, no fewer than 2,500 carts screeched and groaned their way south.

To the nomadic Metis, boundaries, monopolies and tariffs meant nothing. In the northern United States and at Washington, meanwhile, legislators and others were tending to agree that the forty-ninth parallel was, after all, an imaginary line. Geographically and economically, they argued, the northwestern plains were one; why not politically? Manifest Destiny pointed to a federation of all the west under a United States government.

Fear of American expansion northward prompted a series of resolutions in the new Dominion Parliament at Ottawa, urging that Rupert's Land be purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company and annexed to Canada. Toward the end of 1868 Canadian commissioners sailed to London to negotiate the terms of the transfer. By spring of '69 general agreement had been reached but the pact was not to be signed until November nor the area formally acquired until Queen Victoria had issued a proclamation. This was expected to be dated December 1.

In Red River, where the people had not been consulted regarding the transfer, the news was received with mixed reactions. The population then totalled 12,000, of which only 1,500 were white. Metis and English half-breeds made up the overwhelming majority.

To most of the inhabitants, annexation meant government by a "foreign" power, whose interests were far removed from their own. Many of the whites were indifferent but the Metis foresaw an influx of settlers and the end of their wandering prairie life. In the main, it was a carefree existence, in which the spring and fall buffalo hunts, trapping, trading and guiding on the far-flung plains were of much greater importance than tending the small river-front farms. Only a small but noisy group of new settlers from the east, the Canadian party, supported the transfer.

It was to a settlement restless and apprehensive over coming change that Louis Riel returned in 1868; and the Metis looked to him for direction. His education, eloquence and strong sympathy for their cause made him an obvious leader.

Trouble was not long in coming. In the summer of 1869, before the transfer of authority had yet occurred, Canadian surveyors arrived with instructions to survey two or three townships for immediate settlement. Assurances were given that existing holdings and claims would not be affected. One day in October, however, when the fields lay stripped of harvest, a group of Metis, led by Riel, approached the

surveyors as they worked plotting a base line from Headingley to Oak Point. The group demanded that operations cease until agreement had been reached with Red River inhabitants.

On that same day the newly-appointed lieutenant-governor of the territory was on his way west. William McDougall, formerly a member of Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet, brought with him three hundred Enfield rifles, Ottawa's response to warnings that the situation at Red River was inflammable.

Reaching the border town of Pembina on October 30, he was handed a message forbidding him to enter the territory without special permission of the Metis National Committee. At St. Norbert, nine miles south of Fort Garry, stood a barrier guarded by armed men. Here members of McDougall's party were turned back to American soil. Thus, while "Silver Heights," the house chosen to be executive mansion, stood empty at Red River, the new lieutenant-governor found shelter in a one-room shack at Pembina. It was as close as he was to come to his domain.

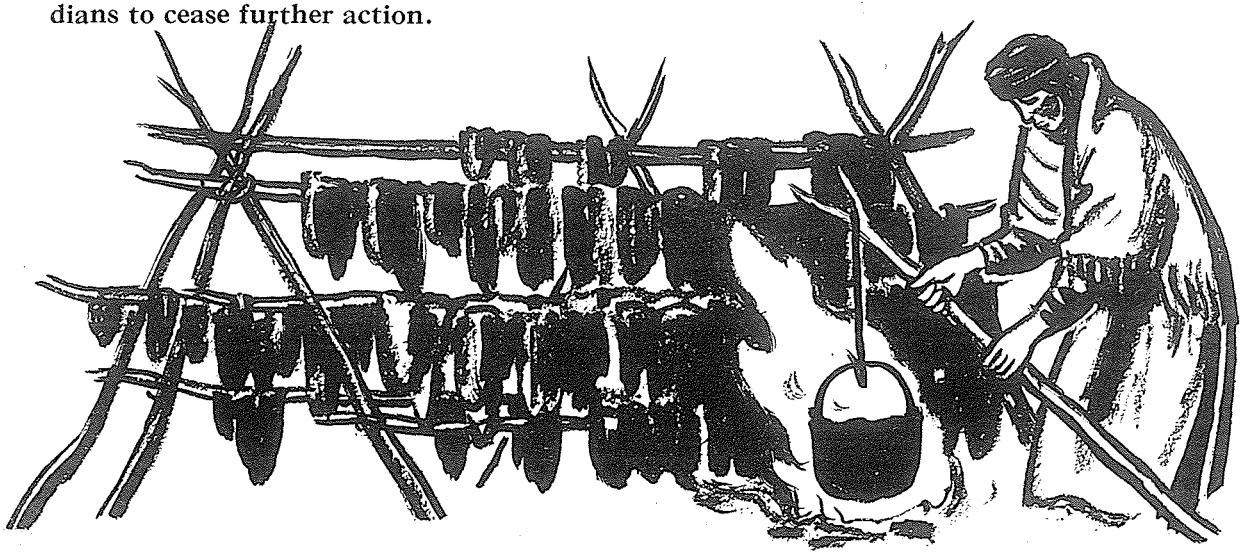
Three days later Riel took a second major step, when one hundred and twenty Metis quietly moved into Fort Garry. Well-stocked with food and munitions and defended by stout walls, it was the strategic centre of the settlement. As the regime of the Hudson's Bay Company passed into its last days, Governor William McTavish, dying of tuberculosis in his residence at the fort, had virtually relinquished all authority. It was both "inconvenient and dangerous," he said, to have armed men "forcibly billeted" on the establishment; but the company could do little.

Riel now sought to enlist the aid of the English half-breeds. He invited representatives from all the parishes to meet in convention at the court house and, on a snowy morning in mid-November, twenty-four delegates assembled. The convention was only partially successful. Riel's followers knew little of parliamentary procedure, while the half-breeds were uncertain as to what course they should follow. The group, however, finally reached agreement on Riel's "List of Rights." The Metis leader's objective was to force the Dominion to negotiate the terms of Rupert's Land's entry into confederation, for only thus, he felt, could his people's welfare be assured. The list set forth the conditions of entry.

Meanwhile, McDougall fumed at Pembina. Reminded by Ottawa that he could claim no authority until a copy of the Queen's proclamation reached him, he impatiently bided his time until December 1, the date on which it was to have been issued. He then composed a document which declared that, by Her Majesty's decree, Rupert's Land was now part of the Dominion. To this he forged the name of his sovereign. What McDougall did not know was that, because of the Metis resistance, the transfer had been postponed.

His next move was even more rash. He commissioned Colonel John Stoughton Dennis, who had accompanied him from Ottawa, to raise a force to disperse the insurgents.

Eluding the guards posted on the main road, Dennis made his way nineteen miles below Fort Garry to the Lower Fort. Here he intended to establish a base. It soon became evident that only two groups in the settlement were eager to fight: a band of Saulteax Indians, who turned out in full war-paint; and the hot-headed Canadian party, unpopular with both French and English-speaking inhabitants. The Scottish settlers, as well as the Protestant parishes in general, refused to take up arms against people with whom they had always lived on friendly terms. Dennis soon perceived the futility of his mission. He returned to Pembina, ordering the Canadians to cease further action.



Louis Riel

Unfortunately, his instructions were not obeyed. Dr. John Schultz, leader of the faction, gathered forty-five of his supporters, whom he armed and stationed in his house. Immediately, alarmed Metis poured into Fort Garry, where Riel appropriated guns and ammunition from the Company's stores. He then demanded unconditional surrender by the Canadians. When Schultz refused, Riel surrounded the house with three hundred armed men and set up two cannon aimed at the front door. Realizing at last the hopelessness of their position, the Canadians emerged from their garrison and were marched to the fort to be jailed.

The following morning, December 8, Riel announced the establishment of a provisional government. This was a step he had long held necessary, if Rupert's Land was to treat with the Dominion on equal terms. Since, he claimed, no legally constituted authority now existed at Red River, the people were free to set up a government of their own. As the band from St. Boniface College played, a new flag was hoisted above the fort—a fleur-de-lis and a shamrock on a white background. Within a matter of weeks and without a drop of blood being shed, Riel had become master of Red River.

With the setting up of the provisional government, life in the settlement fell into a more normal pattern. Christmas Eve of 1869 saw midnight mass celebrated as usual in St. Boniface Cathedral. At twelve o'clock the frosty stillness was shattered by a salute of eighteen guns fired from the walls of Fort Garry. Armed Metis roamed the streets of the village during the year-end festivities; but the sale of liquor was prohibited by Riel's decree. And, although Schultz and his companions were still imprisoned, the English-speaking community was surprisingly unconcerned. In spite of Riel's urging, the white settlers refused to take part in the provisional government. William McDougall, meanwhile, had left Pembina, returning to Ottawa to face the crushing repudiation of his government.

Shortly before Christmas, Riel had confiscated the Company money at Fort Garry. It was claimed that with part of it he bought "The Red River Pioneer", which now became "The New Nation", organ of the provisional government. Edited by an American, Major H. M. Robinson, the newspaper was strongly in favor

of annexation to the United States. Indeed, a section of Riel's supporters, both in the settlement and at Pembina, were Americans, who saw in the disturbance an opportunity for the United States to acquire Rupert's Land. The St. Paul papers loudly advocated annexation, while, in many instances, Washington was better informed on doings at Red River than was Ottawa. But in spite of pressure under which weaker men might have become the tool of American intriguers, Riel never deviated from his allegiance to the British Crown. After a time, Robinson was replaced as editor and "The New Nation" became pro-British in policy.

As 1869 drew to a close, a man who was to play a major role in the settlement of the dispute was on his way to Red River. He was Donald A. Smith, head of the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada. The shrewd and taciturn Smith, later Lord Strathcona, had offered his services to the Dominion as negotiator. On his arrival, he was allowed to take up quarters in Fort Garry. Smith conferred with various influential men and succeeded in persuading Riel to call a mass meeting, so that the people might hear a public statement of Canada's position.

On a bright, bitterly cold day in mid-January about one thousand men gathered in the snow-covered square of Fort Garry. For five hours, while the temperature stood at twenty degrees below zero, they listened as Smith read a mass of letters and other documents designed to show Canada's "liberal intentions." The Dominion, he said, was willing to grant all rights "that the people might prove themselves qualified to exercise." In reply, Riel proposed that a convention of equal numbers of French and English-speaking representatives meet to consider "what would be best for the welfare of the country." His motion was carried.

The convention met on January 25. Within approximately two weeks a second "List of Rights" was drawn up and delegates appointed to carry it to Ottawa. It included several of the demands put forward by the Metis in November: the preservation of local customs, equality of the French and English languages and construction of a railway to the United States. The new list asked for an elected legislature to manage local affairs, financial aid from the Dominion and treaties with native Indian tribes. Riel's suggestion that the area enter confederation as a province, rather than as a territory, was voted down. A few weeks later, however, the provisional government drew up a third list. This time the first item was a demand for provincial status.

The convention concluded its business by setting up a second provisional government, one which included English representatives, and electing Riel president. Toward midnight on February 12 the cannon of Fort Garry thundered a salute and

fireworks were exploded in honor of Riel and his associates. The Metis leader's position had never been more secure; but at the moment when unity had finally been achieved, new discord arose.

Some of the imprisoned Canadians, including Schultz, had escaped from Fort Garry. Among them was Thomas Scott, a rash and out-spoken young man from Ontario. Scott went to Portage la Prairie, sixty miles west of Red River, where he set about organizing an anti-Riel movement. At the same time, Schultz attempted to stir up the Scottish settlers in Kildonan.

During the convention, Riel had agreed to free his prisoners. Sixteen were released on February 12, the same day that sixty Canadians, poorly armed but determined to fight, marched from Portage to Kildonan. The Scots refused to join the movement and the Canadians decided to return to Portage.

The road west led close to Fort Garry. When the Metis saw a large group approaching, a band of horsemen rode out and intercepted them. The Canadians, forty-eight in all, soon found themselves in the prison rooms so recently vacated.

Riel now made one of the greatest blunders of his career: the execution of Thomas Scott. A prisoner for the second time, Scott was accused of being abusive to his guards. He encouraged others to acts of insubordination and threatened to kill Riel. On March 3 he was tried before a Metis court martial and condemned to die.

At noon the following day, guards led Scott outside the walls of Fort Garry, where, as a crowd of almost two hundred people watched, the sentence was carried out by a firing squad. Immediately after, the body was placed in a rough coffin and lodged in a bastion of the fort. That night it was secretly removed; and to this day, its eventual resting place remains a mystery.

Scott's death caused little stir in Red River but in eastern Canada the reaction was violent. Ontario interpreted the execution as the murder of an Irish Protestant by French Catholics. Quebec saw Riel as a heroic patriot, fighting the battle of Canada's French on the far-off western plains. Repercussions of the act extended far beyond the boundaries of Rupert's Land and linger beneath the surface of Canadian politics today.

Perhaps the correct explanation of the deed lay in Riel's words, "We must make Canada respect us." The leaders of the "new nation," a people neither white nor dark, felt compelled to justify their position by a deliberate act of self-assertion.

Five days after the death of Scott, Bishop Tache, who possessed great influence over the Metis, returned to Red River. At the request of the Dominion government, he had hurried back from a conference in Rome. He found the settlement in a

peaceful condition, with English and French co-operating in the provisional government and with discussions of the final demands to be sent to Ottawa. It was no doubt due to the Bishop's influence that a request for separate schools for Protestant and Catholic students was added to the list. A demand for a general amnesty for all acts committed during the rising was also introduced.

On March 23 the delegates who were to carry the list to Ottawa set out. Entering Ontario, they were arrested on a charge of complicity in the "murder" of Thomas Scott, but the Dominion Government hastily intervened and they were permitted to continue east.

In Ottawa, the delegates conferred with Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Georges Etienne Cartier, a Catholic member of the cabinet. After some fifteen meetings, a draft of the bill known as the Manitoba Act was completed, it having been decided that the new province be named Manitoba, after the large lake about forty miles from Red River. The word is believed to be derived from a Saulteaux or Cree phrase, meaning "The God That Speaks."

Introduced into the House of Commons on May 2, the act incorporated most of the points of the "List of Rights." Although the matter of the amnesty was not included, the delegates were assured that it would be forthcoming. Ten days after its introduction, the bill received royal assent. When the news reached Red River, the provisional legislature unanimously voted to accept the terms of entry into confederation.

The diminutive province was only some 13,000 square miles in extent, reaching as far west as where Gladstone is today, and what is now Winnipeg Beach in the north. It has since been enlarged twice, acquiring its present boundaries in 1912. The act also provided that the remainder of the northwest be admitted as a territory under the jurisdiction of Manitoba's lieutenant-governor. On July 15, 1870, Manitoba formally became Canada's fifth province.

Sir Adams George Archibald of Nova Scotia, one of the fathers of confederation, was named as first lieutenant-governor. It was agreed that Riel should continue as head of government until Archibald's arrival. "I only wish to retain power," Riel told Donald A. Smith, "until I can resign it to a proper government."

To provide armed support for the new administration and in order to satisfy public opinion in Ontario, where the press screamed for punishment of Scott's "murderers," Ottawa decided to send a military force to Red River. The United States refused to allow passage of soldiers or military supplies through its territory. Therefore, early in May, two battalions of Canadian troops plus a force of British

regulars, under Colonel Garnet Wolseley, set out over the difficult waterways that led from Lake Superior through a wilderness of forest, rock and muskeg to Lake Winnipeg. Experienced voyageurs guided the big boats that carried men, cannon and ball, rifles and ammunition, as well as provisions for three months. The transportation of the force, a task which required ninety-six grueling days, stands as a unique feat in military annals.

In Red River, where the population quietly awaited the change in government, Riel was assured by Bishop Tache and others that the troops' mission was one of peace. However, the eight hundred Canadian volunteers included many who had enlisted with a vow to avenge themselves for Scott's death. There were others who wished the excitement of a battle at the conclusion of their journey. Rumors of the ominous atmosphere of the camps were carried to Fort Garry.

On the night of August 23, the troops camped beside the Red River, six miles below the settlement. It was a night of rain and wind, that flattened the tents and hurled sheets of water against the helpless men. As dawn broke in leaden skies, a chill mist covered the countryside.

Two miles below the fort, the equipment was taken from the boats and placed in carts. Their boots heavy with mud, the troops stumbled up the prairie trail toward the grey stone walls of Fort Garry.

They were expecting a battle with Riel's men or a rousing welcome from the people they had come to liberate. Instead, they found only a silent and undefended fort, its guns unmanned, its flagpole stripped of the banner of the "new nation," the flag that would never fly again. Nearby was the straggling village, its almost deserted streets turned to gumbo by the rain. And stretching away on all sides was the vast emptiness of the prairie, now lost in mist.

The troops found the south gate of the fort open. Through it, Riel and an Irish follower, O'Donoghue, had just passed. Until that morning Riel had intended to remain at Fort Garry until he might hand over the reins of government. At one time, he had even prepared an elaborate speech of welcome. But reports of the troops' attitude were not reassuring and, shortly after breakfast, he had been warned that his life would be in danger should he stay. He gave orders that the fort be evacuated, remaining until the last group of Metis had gone. Then he and O'Donoghue slipped through the gate and crossed the Assiniboine River.

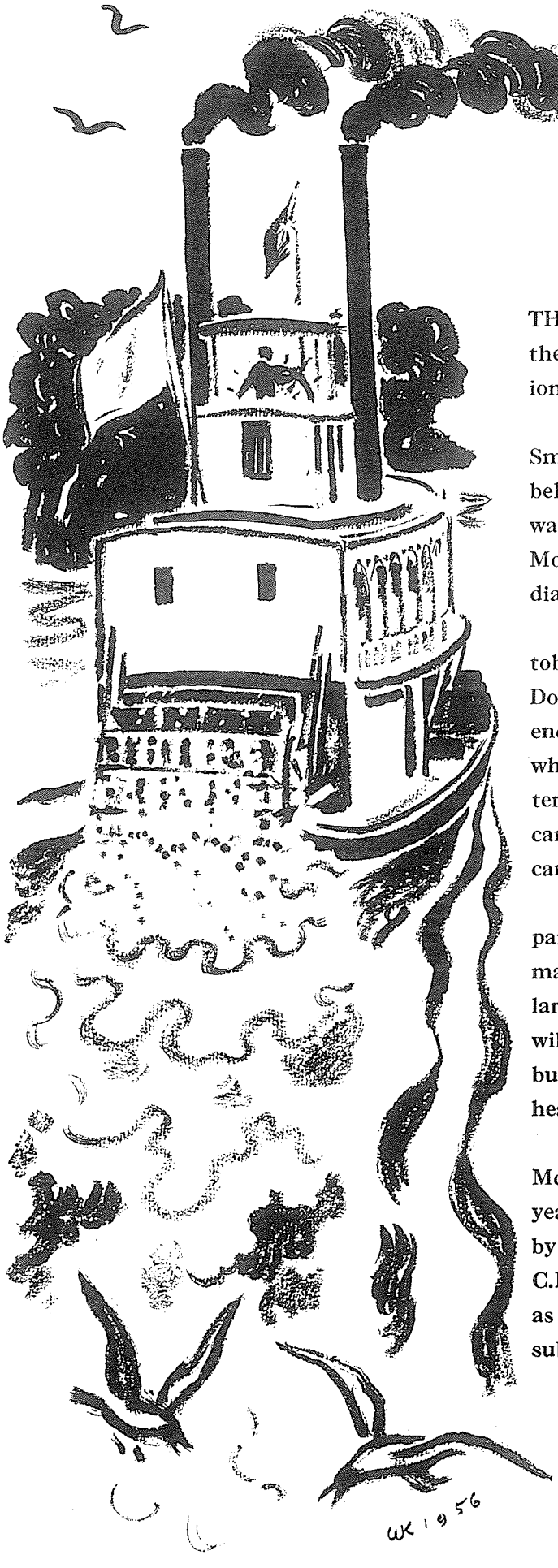
Pausing on their way to Pembina to eat a meagre lunch, Riel is said to have pronounced this bitter epitaph: "He who ruled in Fort Garry only yesterday is now a homeless wanderer with nothing to eat but two dried fishes."

In a sense, Louis Riel remained a wanderer until his death.

He returned on several occasions to Red River and was twice elected to represent the constituency of Provencher in the Dominion Parliament. However, he never took his seat for, after violent debate, the House passed a motion for his expulsion. In 1875 the long-promised amnesty was declared. It included the condition that Riel stay in exile for five years.

In 1884 he returned from the United States to what is now northern Saskatchewan and once again attempted to defend his people's way of life. For his part in the ill-advised and hopeless North West Rebellion, he was hanged at Regina in November, 1885. His body was brought to St. Boniface and buried in the graveyard of the Cathedral, not far from his old home. A simple shaft marks the grave.

In the small museum in the St. Boniface City Hall may be seen many relics of Louis Riel's career: a lock of hair, a letter written by him. There is the coffin in which his body was carried from Regina; and a piece of rope, said to be taken from that with which he was hanged. There is also a pistol, believed to be the gun which killed Thomas Scott. On River Road in St. Vital stands the old Riel house, now in use as a post office. Meanwhile, at St. Norbert, nine miles from Winnipeg on Highway Number Seventy-five, a monument marks the spot where "la barriere" was erected to prevent William McDougall's entrance into Red River.



After 1870

THE NAMES of several of the actors concerned in the drama of Manitoba's entrance into the Dominion appear again in the pages of the province's story.

Most outstanding of the group was Donald A. Smith, who entered politics, became a driving force behind the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was elevated to the peerage as Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, and was eventually appointed Canadian High Commissioner in London.

For four years he represented Winnipeg in Manitoba's Legislature and, from 1870 on, sat in the Dominion Parliament as member for the constituency of Selkirk. In a by-election in 1880, Smith, who had previously supported the Tories for one term and the Liberals for two, ran as an independent candidate. In spite of large sums spent during the campaign, he was defeated.

Smith never forgave Winnipeg, which was then part of the constituency, for this slight. Although many institutions in eastern Canada benefitted by large endowments from the fortune he amassed, his will made no mention of the young western city built on the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's old headquarters.

"Silver Heights," the mansion into which McDougall had planned to move, was for many years Smith's summer residence, being connected by a special spur line with the main line of the C.P.R. The name "Silver Heights" survives today as that of a residential area in Winnipeg's west suburbs.

Lord Strathcona

Dr. John Schultz, later Sir John, also went into politics. A member of the Dominion Parliament for eleven years and of the Canadian Senate for six, he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Manitoba in 1888. The ground on which his home once stood, the house into which he barricaded himself and his supporters in 1869, is now occupied by a parking lot at the corner of Main Street and Water Avenue.

A monument which may be said to honor an achievement of Colonel J. S. Dennis is found thirteen miles west of Winnipeg on Highway Number One. Just beyond Headingley, a cairn marks the principal meridian and the location of the first section line established for the Dominion Lands Survey in 1871. The survey was the basis of the Torrens title system of land tenure, which extends across the prairies to the Pacific coast. It was on the recommendation of Dennis, who later became surveyor-general of Canada, that it was adopted.

Finally, an interesting story may be told in connection with Sir Georges Etienne Cartier, who guided the Manitoba Act through the Dominion Parliament. He was elected in 1872 to represent the Manitoba constituency of Provencher in the House of Commons but died before taking his seat.

In 1914, the centenary of Cartier's birth, a committee was formed in Montreal to arrange for the placing of a bust of the statesman in his native town of St. Antoine-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Cast in Belgium, the four-foot high bronze bust was shipped to Halifax deep in the hold of a ship. But the First World War was then in progress. In the haste of reloading the vessel with munitions for its return trip across the Atlantic, the bust was overlooked. Carried back to Europe, it became a piece of lost freight. In 1919 the Belgian bronze-founders were commissioned to cast another bust from the sculptor's model. This was duly installed at St. Antoine.

Shortly after the first bust came to light. Having no use for two, and in view of Cartier's association with Manitoba, the committee presented the original bust to the province. It may be seen today atop a pedestal at the Broadway and Kennedy Street corner of the Legislative Building's grounds in Winnipeg.

Manitoba's Legislature

ON THE AFTERNOON of July 15, 1920—exactly half a century from the date on which Manitoba entered confederation—a long awaited ceremony took place in Winnipeg. As a military band played, and with attendant pomp and ceremony, Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Aikens declared the province's new Legislative Building officially open.

For seven years Winnipeggers had watched the structure grow: the deep excavation; the steel skeleton, with the ninety-seven-ton girders to support the main dome; the slowly-mounting masonry; finally, the completed edifice towering in proud outline against the sky. Following the formal opening, spectators thronged the building, exclaiming over the sculptured figures, the huge mural, the mystic star in its pool of marble, all the varied wealth of detail which graced the interior.

Meanwhile, on the northeast corner of the grounds stood the Capital's predecessor, destined now for the wrecking crew. A four-storey, white-brick structure bearing the precise ornamentation dear to its Victorian builders, it had housed the Legislature for thirty-five years.

The time-worn building, erected in 1883, as was the present Government House, was the Assembly's fourth meeting-place. When the first session of the Provincial House was held in March, 1871, it met in the home of A. G. B. Bannatyne, a large residence not far north of what is now the corner of Portage and Main. But the house burned in '73 and the Legislature moved into Winnipeg's new court house, completed that same year, and situated a little farther north on Main Street between Bannatyne and William. Here it met until the sessions of '82 and '83, which were held in the north wing of the building now known as the old Law Courts. By '84 the structure on Kennedy and Broadway was ready for occupancy.

Today on Main Street, the location of the Bannatyne house is marked by a plaque on the Banque Canadienne Nationale; and, although the court house has now disappeared, its old foundation supports the present buildings. Beneath the Bijou Theatre may be found the prison cell in which Ambroise Lepine, Louis Riel's adjutant-general, was jailed for his part in the shooting of Thomas Scott.

The Red River uprising loomed powerfully in the foreground of Manitoba's first election; indeed, the election might be said to have carried the uprising to the polls. There were no political parties in the traditional sense—"just the in's and out's," as Premier John Norquay once explained. The first campaign was waged between the Government Party, which supported Lieutenant-Governor Archibald in his desire to forget past troubles and unite the opposing factions; and the Loyalist Party, which demanded punishment for the Metis leaders. The "old settlers" and a solid Metis block were among Archibald's followers, while the Loyalists rallied around the figure of Dr. John Schultz. After a stormy campaign, Schultz was defeated.

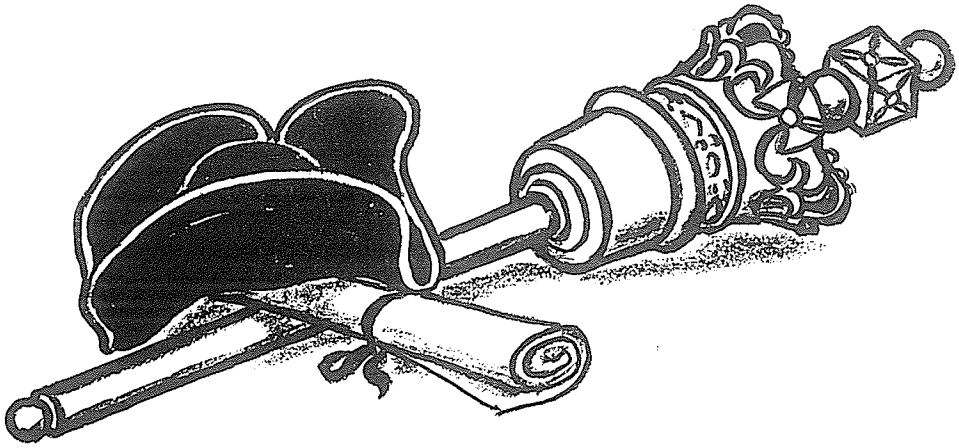
The twenty-four members of the first Assembly, many of whom appeared in rough suits, brightly colored shirts, gay sashes and mocassins, knew little of politics or parliamentary procedure. One member, being called to order while inebriated, is said to have replied, "You may think I am a fool, Mr. Speaker, but I am not such a fool as the people who sent me here."

Proceedings were conducted with all the dignity the House could muster. At the opening of a session in the court house, where the chamber was reached by a flight of stairs from the sidewalk to the second storey, the Sergeant-at-Arms, Louis de Plainval, met Lieutenant-Governor Morris as he alighted from his carriage. Attired in court dress and bearing the mace, de Plainval preceded Morris backwards up the staircase, bowing gracefully on every step. The performance so unnerved Morris that he had an aide request the agile sergeant to turn around.

The original mace, now on view in a glass case in the provincial library, was a wooden one, the head being carved from the hub of a Red River cart. Its staff was part of the flagstaff of Wolseley's expeditionary force. The whole was gilded by Manitoba's first attorney-general, Hon. H. J. Clarke, who at one time had been a painter.

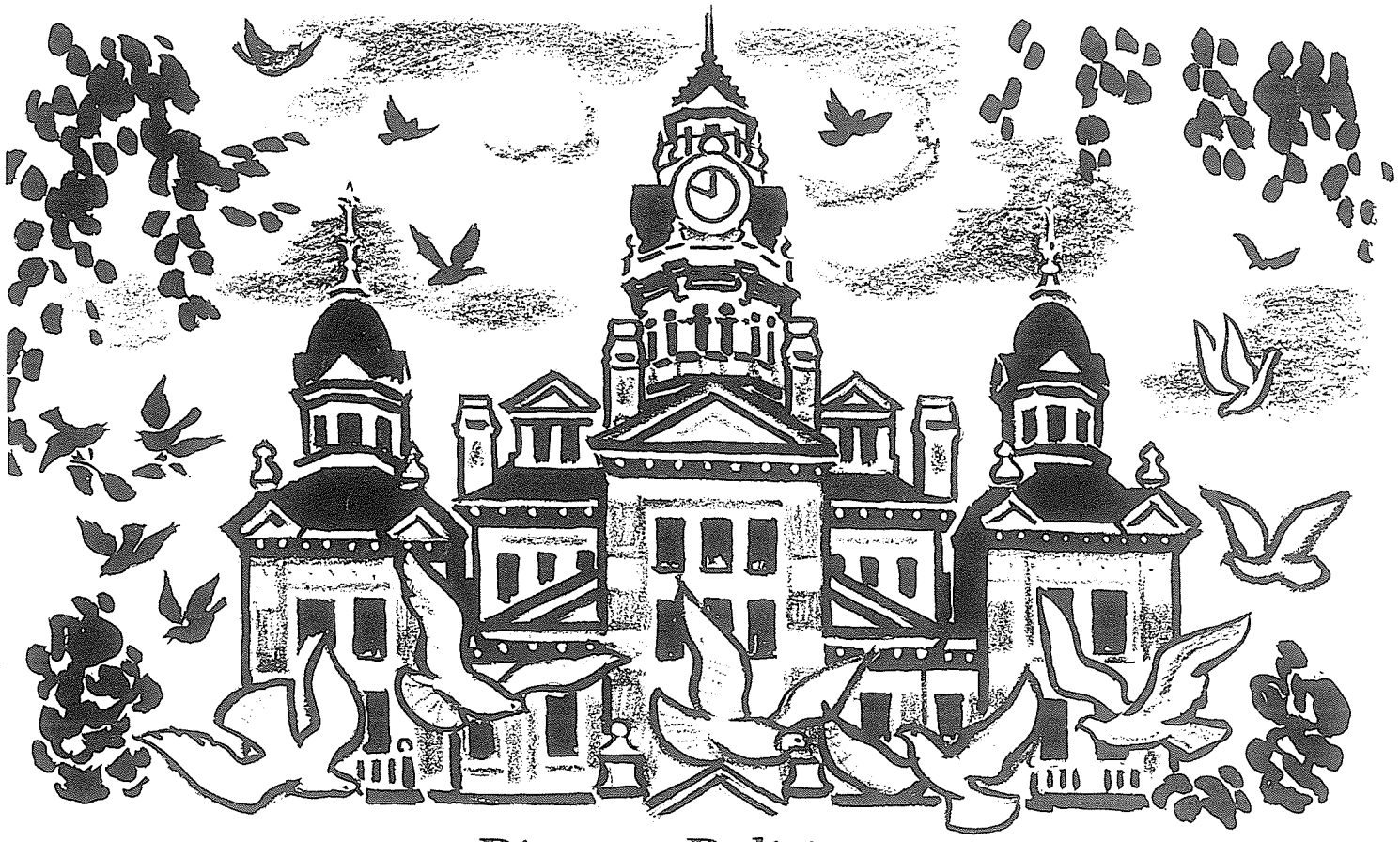
In addition to its Legislative Assembly, Manitoba began its existence as a province with a Legislative Council or Upper House. Composed of seven members, its powers were similar to those of the Canadian Senate. The Upper House, however, was abolished in 1876 as an unnecessary expense.

In spite of many irregularities in the early days, the Assembly functioned reasonably well. The province had been fortunate in obtaining the leadership of Archibald, who guided both premier and cabinet, as did his successor, Morris. Much of the early legislation has withstood the test of time.



Towering high above the city and surmounted by its golden symbol of eternal youth and enterprise, the Legislative Building presents a striking combination of gracefulness and strength. The structure, neo-classic in design and with detail largely Greek, is the dream of a master architect, who reached far in time and space to select and bring together its component parts.

Much of its sculpture is allegorical in nature; and the building itself might be said to be a symbol—a stately representation in stone of that which was best in the past, set now on the living earth of Manitoba.



Pioneer Politics

THE GINGERBREAD FACADE of Winnipeg's City Hall belongs to an era which vanished with gas light and horse-drawn street cars. It stands today behind the tall elms and the statue to the volunteers who fought in the Rebellion of '85, a reminder of an out-moded conception of elegance. Nevertheless, its quaint towers and elaborately symmetrical brick work were much admired when the building was opened in 1886.

It was the second City Hall to occupy the Main Street site. In 1875 the property was bought by Winnipeg from descendants of Sheriff Alexander Ross. It must, the deed specified, be used always for "public purposes" or the land—bounded by Main, Princess, Market and William—would revert to the heirs of the family. The following year Winnipeg's first City Hall was completed.

A two-storey structure, it housed a theatre on the second floor. Its foundations were laid on the bed of a creek, crossed by a bridge at the corner of Main and William. The life of the city council's first home was brief, for the building collapsed only eight years after its completion. In spite of this experience, the city fathers elected to stay with the site and in 1884 the corner stone of the present building was laid. November 2, 1886, saw the city council gathering in the quarters it occupies today.

The politics of the frontier city were pursued with vigor and occasionally violence. In 1872, when incorporation was proposed, the issue was hotly contested. Before the act establishing Winnipeg as a city was passed by the Provincial Legislature, the Speaker of the House had been lured from his home, and tarred and feathered. The perpetrators of the outrage were never discovered, although $1,000 reward was offered for their apprehension. On January 5, 1874, the first civic election took place. The voters' lists carried only 388 names but a total of 562 ballots was cast.

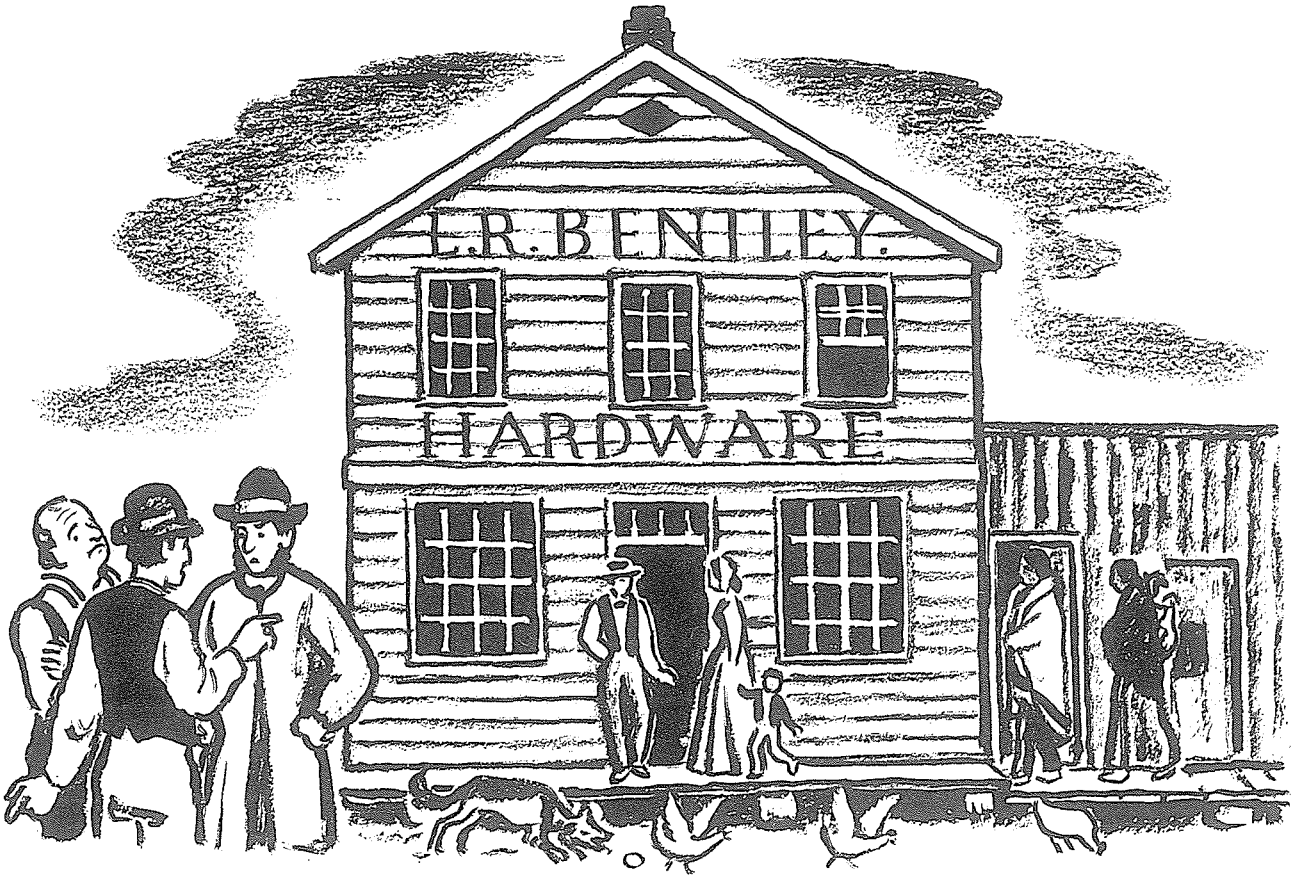
Personalities were as colorful as events. One of the most flamboyant figures on the political scene was Winnipeg's first mayor, Francis Evans Cornish, who came west in 1871 from London, Ontario. There is an often-quoted story of how Cornish, acting in his official capacity as chief magistrate, fined and reprimanded himself for drunkenness. The story is true, although it happened not in Winnipeg but in London, where he served as mayor before emigrating to Manitoba.

In Winnipeg, however, Cornish was once arrested and fined for stealing a poll-book on election day. On another occasion, when contesting a seat in the Legislature, he had his opponent kidnapped on the eve of the election. He then levelled certain charges in a last-minute open meeting and declared that his rival's failure to come forward to answer them was tantamount to confession. He was returned by a sizeable majority.

Many stories might be recalled in connection with the early years. Once when a previous city council was being denounced for incompetence, an alderman declared that "under the old rigma things were in a state of cahose"—under the old regime things were in a state of chaos! Again, one of the city fathers was highly indignant at being called, as he thought, an "ultra vires."

The original meeting place of the council before a City Hall was built was on the second floor of a hardware store at approximately where the Nanton Building stands today. The store, built around 1864, established Portage and Main as a strategic corner. Before that date, it was referred to as an "isolated" spot, since most merchants operated their businesses opposite Fort Garry near what is now South Main.

The name Winnipeg, as the designation of the little community on the banks of the Red and Assiniboine, was first suggested in an editorial in the Nor' Wester in 1864. From a Cree word meaning "dirty water," the name had been applied since the eighteenth century to the large lake into which the Red empties. During this time it had received various spellings, including "Ounipeg", "Winnepeck", "Winnipic" and "Winnipeek." When the act of incorporation was debated in the



Legislature, both Garry and Selkirk were proposed as names for the fledgling city; but Winnipeg was chosen.

Among the oil portraits of past mayors which hang in the City Hall is a picture of a man who sought to annex western Canada to the United States. He was James Wickes Taylor, one-time secret agent of the American State Department to investigate Red River affairs, later most popular of American consuls in the young city of Winnipeg. It was during the Riel uprising that Taylor was assigned the task of reporting activities in the settlement to Washington. In 1870 he became consul, a post which he held until his death in 1893.

The portrait, which includes a bouquet of crocuses, recalls a charming custom of Consul Taylor: that of picking the first of the shy prairie blossoms and presenting them to ladies of his acquaintance.

The dream of a railway was uppermost in men's minds in those first days. In 1874, when the council chose the city's official crest, it included a railway locomotive, although more than three years were to pass before the laying of the first track. The crest is seen today, high on the front of the City Hall: the locomotive, a buffalo and three sheaves of wheat, all symbols of importance in the development of Winnipeg.

The First Wheat Shipment

PERHAPS it is appropriate that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange stands where it does, just off Main Street on Lombard Avenue. It was from the old wharf at the foot of Lombard, then known as Post Office Street, that the first export shipment of wheat ever made from western Canada left Winnipeg on an autumn morning in 1876. Travelling via Red River steamer, it totalled less than nine hundred bushels. But it was Red Fife, the variety that was to establish Manitoba as one of the finest wheat-growing regions of the world.

The story behind that first shipment goes back to 1868, when grasshoppers devastated Red River crops and forced the settlers to bring in United States wheat for seed. They chose Red Fife, originally an Ontario variety. Sown on farms along the Red and Assiniboine the following spring, it proved admirably suited to the prairie soil.

Six years later Ontario's wheat crop failed and the eastern province turned to Manitoba for seed. R. C. Steele, of Toronto, later president of the Steele Briggs Seed Company, made a hurried journey to Winnipeg in the fall. As there was yet no railway to the west, it was necessary that the wheat go out by boat before freeze-up.

Briggs' order was for 5,000 bushels. Hearing of the fine cash offer, eighty cents a bushel, farmers assessed their stocks and estimated how much they could spare. It soon became evident that not one-fifth of the amount could be obtained. However, 857 1/6 bushels of precious wheat were tied into sacks and placed aboard the sternwheeler Minnesota. Then on a frosty morning in late October the boat splashed away from the landing on the Red. She reached Fisher's Landing in Minnesota just forty-eight hours before ice closed the river, ending navigation for the season.

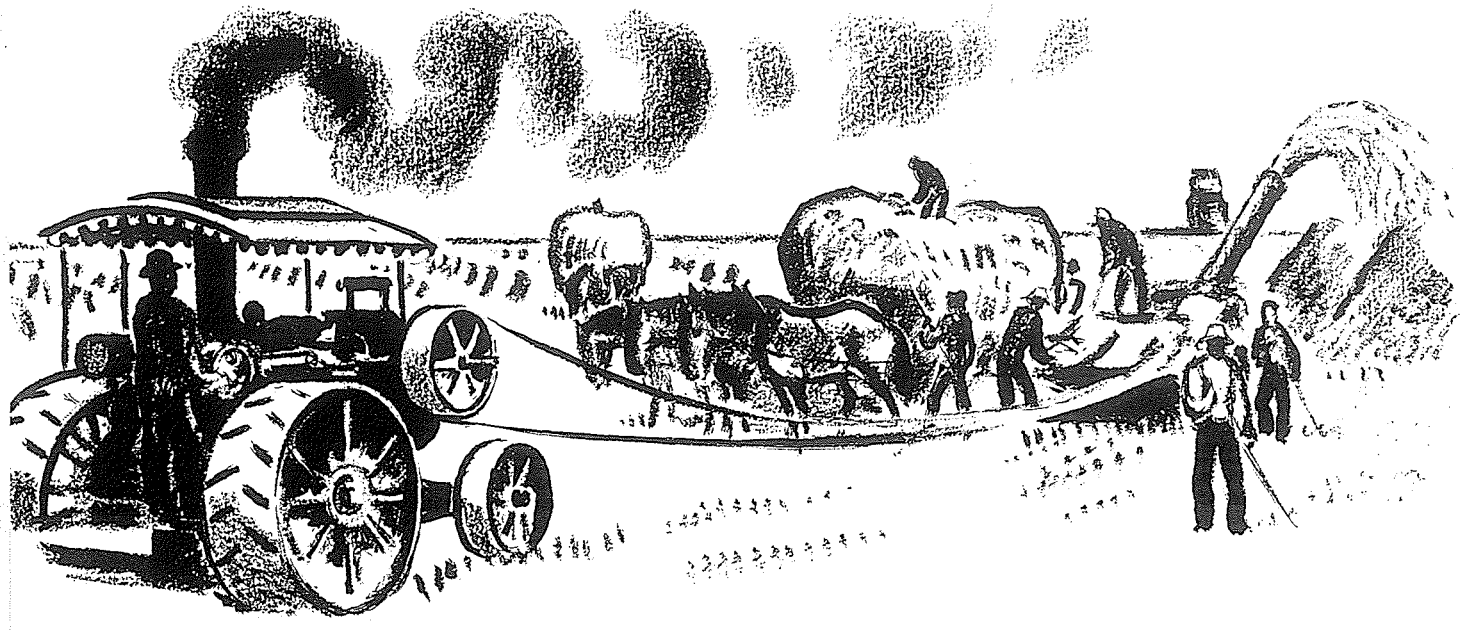
Farmers and millers in Ontario liked the hard spring wheat and asked for more. A quickened interest in the province which produced such grain resulted in a flood of immigration. "No. 1 Northern" became a magic phrase on the world's grain markets.

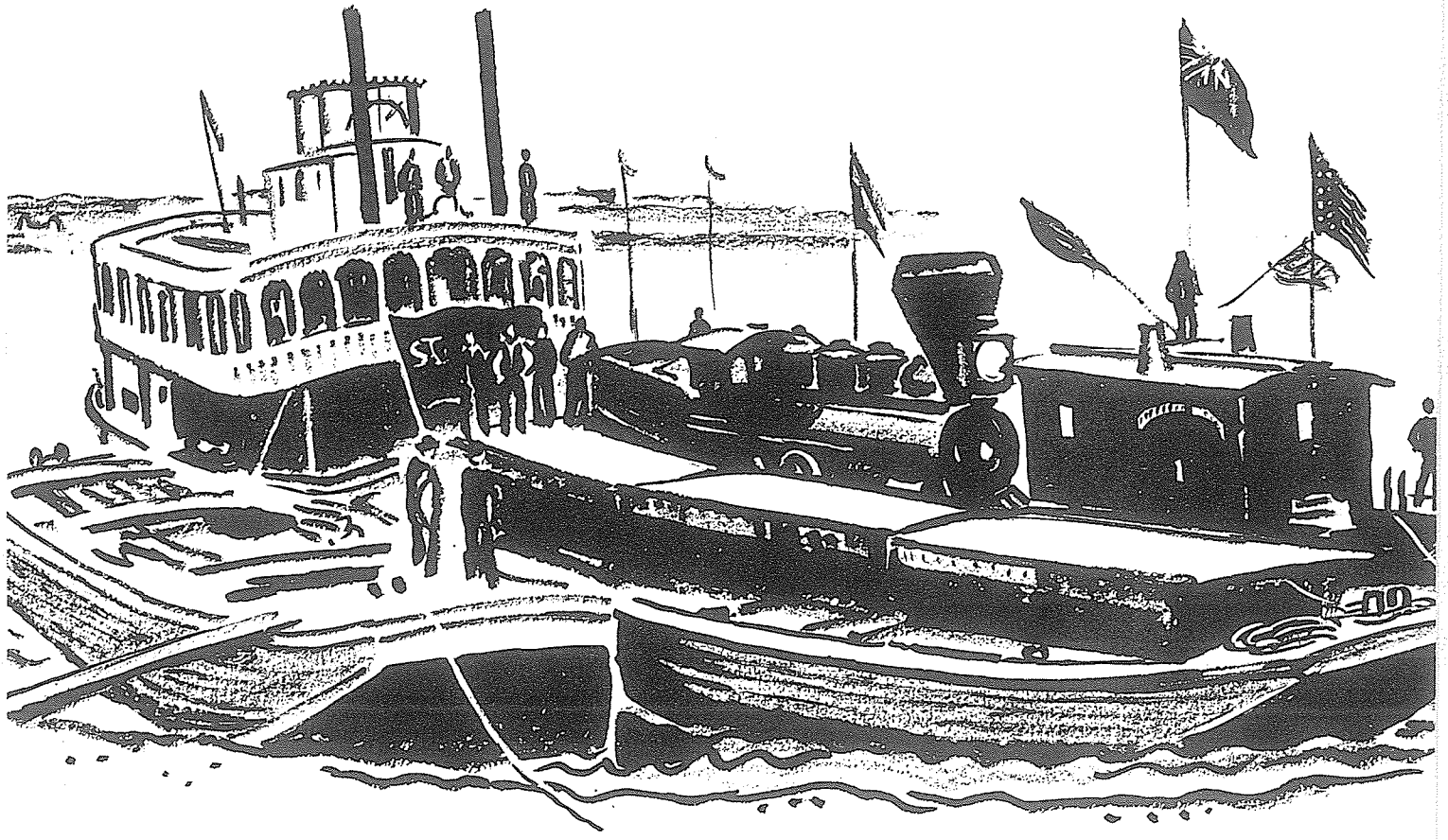
If you go down Lombard to the banks of the Red River today, you will find no trace of the landing nor of McMillan's mill, where the farmers brought their wheat. However, there is one tangible reminder of that historic shipment—a bronze plaque which hangs in the Legislative Building.

* * *

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange moved into its present ten-storey building, the city's largest office block, in 1908. Organized in 1887, the association had already outgrown two previous homes: a basement room in the City Hall and a building on Princess Street.

The Winnipeg Exchange was destined to become one of the great grain markets of the world. It is still one of the leading markets for cash grain, although since 1943 all trading in wheat has been carried on by the Canadian Wheat Board, a government agency. Guided tours of the building take visitors through the laboratories of the Board of Grain Commissioners, as well as to the famous trading floor, where, over the years, billions of bushels of prairie grain have changed hands.





The Countess

ON AN OCTOBER MORNING more than three-quarters of a century ago, a large crowd gathered on the banks of the Red River at the foot of Post Office Street. Bells pealed and mill whistles blew, as the sternwheeler Selkirk, decked out in flags and bunting and pushing a number of barges, drew up at the dock. The barges carried a special cargo: the Countess of Dufferin, Number One engine of the Canadian Pacific Railway, together with a caboose, flatcars and railway ties.

The arrival of the Countess on that morning in 1877 was an occasion of general rejoicing. It signified the start of construction of a railway from St. Boniface to connect with the American line of the St. Paul and Pacific Company.

In 1877 a telegraph was Winnipeg's only daily link with the outside world. The brigades of Red River carts which, by the hundreds, had creaked off to the United States, were giving way to stage coach service overland and steamboat transportation on the Red, begun in 1859. The speedier service promised by the Countess was eagerly heralded.

The locomotive had been built in Philadelphia and before being purchased by the C.P.R., had operated over the Northern Pacific line between Brainard, Minnesota,

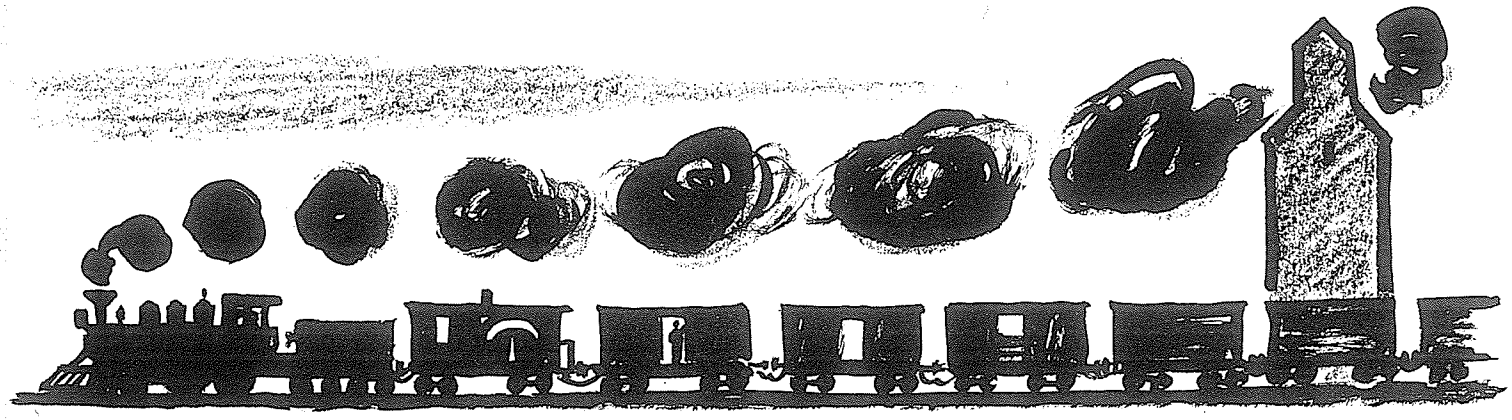
and Jim Town, now Fargo, North Dakota. Her trip via the Red River to Winnipeg was a triumphal progress. As the flotilla passed Fort Pembina, guns of the U.S. artillery boomed a salute. Meanwhile, excitement ran high among settlers along the Red River Valley.

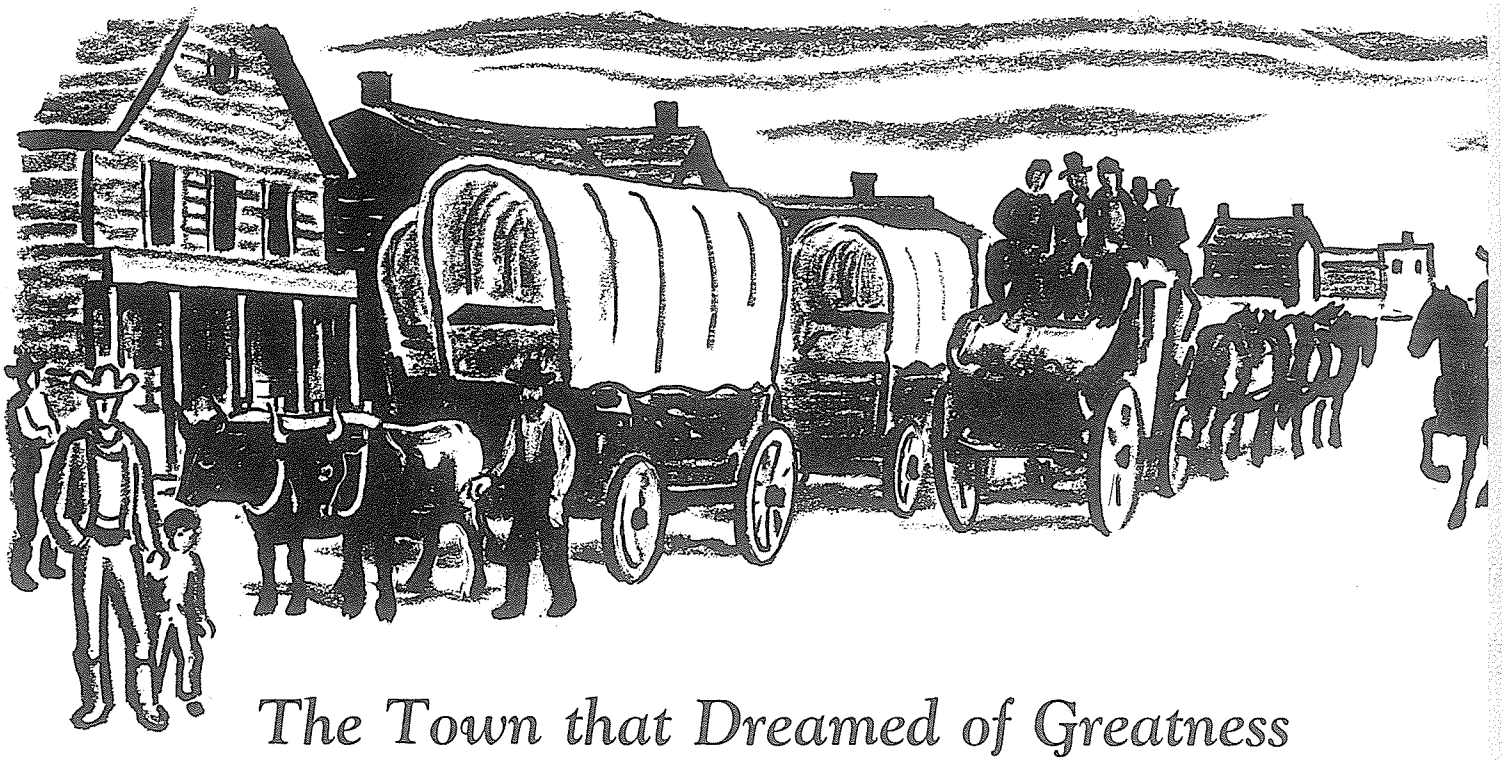
Some ten days earlier, the first spike of the line over which the locomotive was to run had been driven at St. Boniface. The ceremony was performed by Canada's Governor-General, Lord Dufferin, and Lady Dufferin, after whom the engine was named. It had been hoped that the locomotive would arrive in time for the ceremony but this had proved impossible.

After her victorious welcome to the city, the Countess was put to work on construction of the line. The branch was completed the next year, with the first incoming train arriving on December 7. However, until the Louise Bridge across the Red was finished in 1881 not Winnipeg, but St. Boniface, was the terminus.

The Countess of Dufferin left western Canada after several year's service between St. Boniface and the American border, being moved to the Crow's Nest run, with headquarters at Cranbrook, British Columbia. Toward the end of the century, she was being used for hauling logs by a lumber company. Winnipeg commenced a campaign to bring the engine back to her first Canadian home, and in April, 1910, she was returned and retired from service. For three years the Countess was housed in a shed of frame and glass at the corner of Austin Street and Higgins Avenue but she was moved eventually to her present location.

Fronting the C.P.R. station, this veteran of western railway service may be seen. In summer she presents a gay appearance, surrounded by trees and flowers. Who knows what pioneer memories she may recall in her grassy retreat just off Main Street?





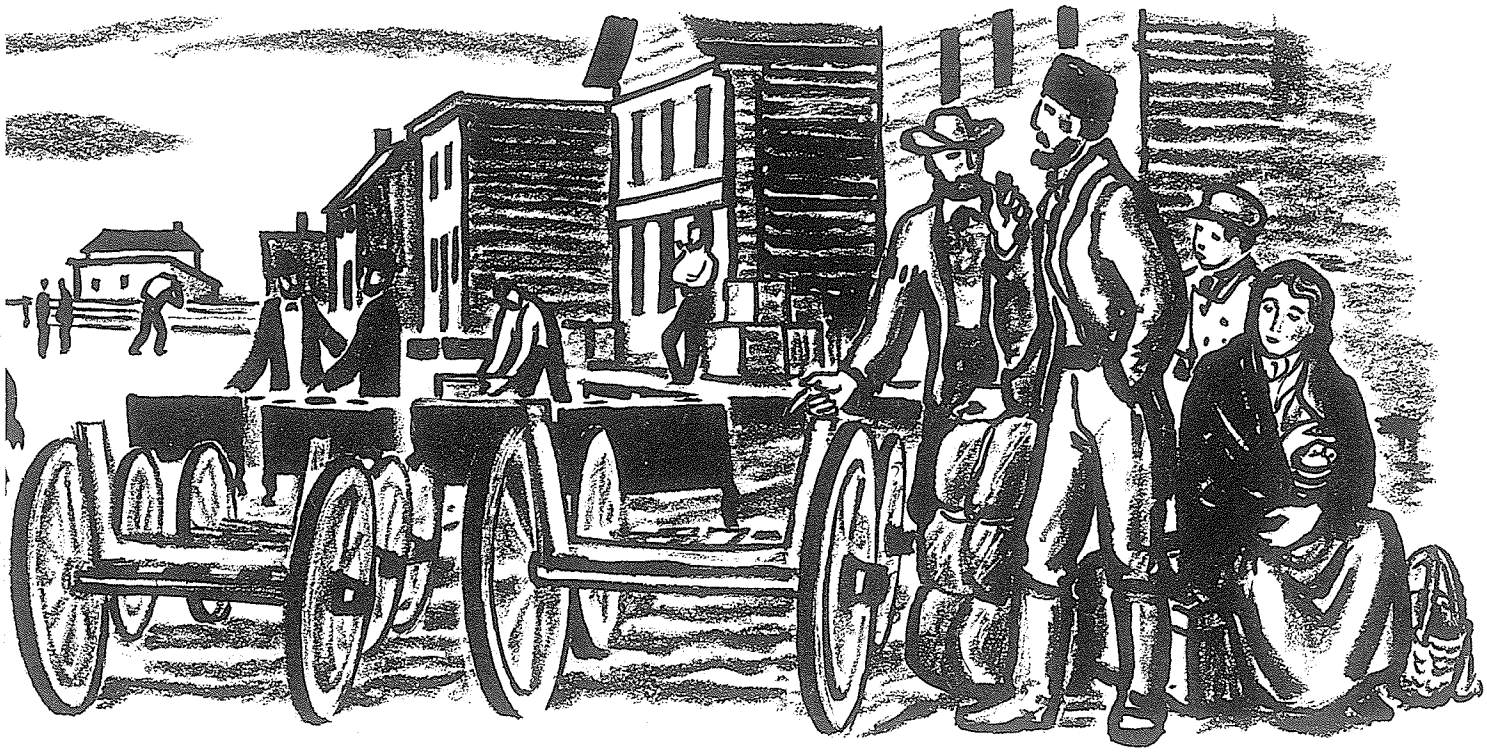
The Town that Dreamed of Greatness

SIXTY-SEVEN MILES south of Winnipeg on Highway Number Seventy-five is Emerson, chief port of entry for United States tourists to Manitoba. The small border town on the wooded banks of the Red River has a long and colorful history. In the late 1870's and early '80's it was one of the province's largest towns and principal distributing centres, as well as the western gateway through which passed thousands of settlers from eastern Canada and the United States.

Long before the town existed, a series of trading posts stood in the area, most of them a short distance south of what is now the international boundary. The earliest is said to have been erected in 1793.

After the delineation of the border, the Hudson's Bay Company moved its posts into British territory. Just north of what was believed to be the boundary line, North Fort Pembina was established on the west bank of the Red in 1850. Around it grew up the town of West Lynne, later part of Emerson. In the early years, however, it was called "North Pembina" or "Pembina," due to its location near the fort.

Emerson may be said to have had its origin in 1874, for in the spring of that year the Emerson Colonization Party, led by Thomas Carney and W. N. Fairbanks, reached the district. Under an agreement with the Dominion Government, the two received a grant of land on which they were to establish settlers. A town site was laid out on the Red's east bank opposite West Lynne. It was the scholarly Fairbanks who named the town in honor of the American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Carney, who became Emerson's first mayor, was later to gain recognition for his contribution toward the invention of the cash register.

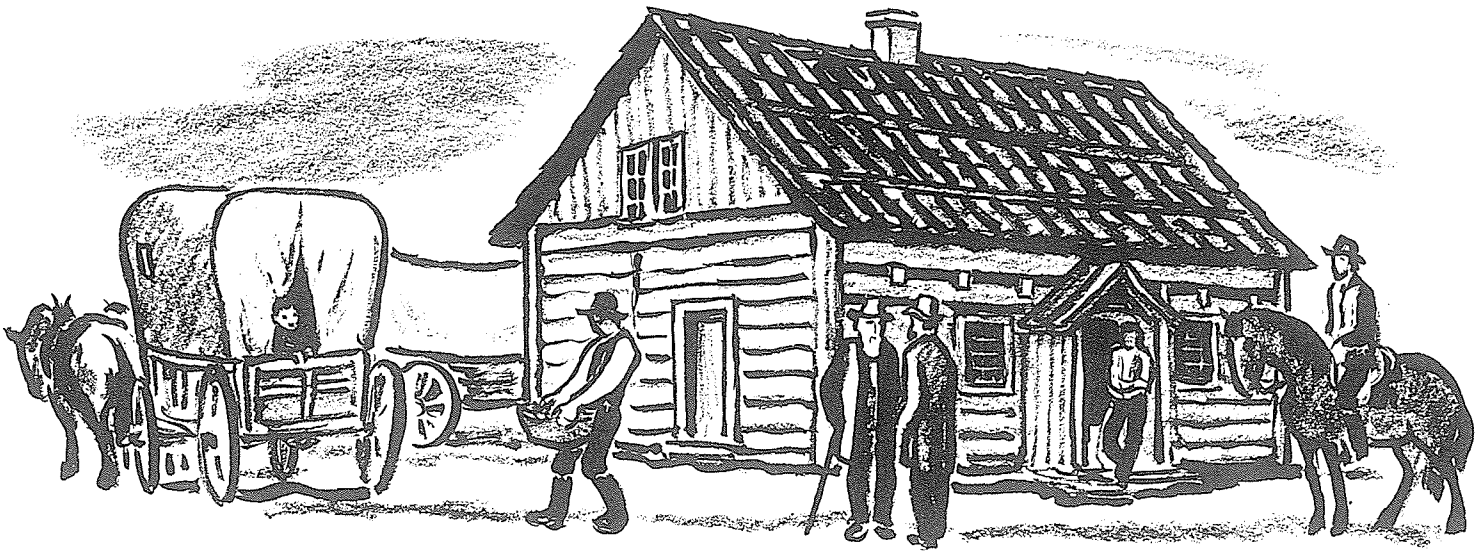


From the beginning, Emerson's growth was phenomenal. In 1875 its population was one hundred; six years later it had grown to 2,500. Railway service was established in 1878 with the completion of a branch from St. Boniface to Pembina, North Dakota, where it connected with the American line of the St. Paul and Pacific Company. Through the town poured a steady stream of immigration, as settlers by the thousand arrived by rail or sternwheeler. Some took the Boundary Commission Trail westward. Others continued on to Winnipeg, from which point they set out for other newly-opened districts of the province.

An immense wholesale trade was built up with the country lying toward the Pembina Hills and beyond. At local livery stables commercial travellers hired teams of horses for eight weeks at a stretch, covering a territory which reached as far as 230 miles west. It was a golden era of expansion, a period of optimism as boundless as the prairie horizons. Emerson's citizens dreamed of the day when their bustling town would become Manitoba's largest city.

But the hope of future greatness was short-lived. When the Canadian Pacific Railway was built north of Lake Superior to Winnipeg, the tide of immigration through Emerson abruptly ebbed. The town lost its strategic position as a main point of distribution, for trade now followed an east-west pattern. Failure to obtain a charter for a railway toward the Turtle Mountains completed the disaster.

Many businesses moved to Winnipeg. From a population of 3,000 in 1884, Emerson's numbers shrank within two years to six hundred. The boom-days were over for the border town.



The Old Customs House

EMERSON TODAY is a pleasant town of substantial buildings and wide, tree-lined streets. In a provincial park beside the river are found two reminders of its early days. One is the first customs house to be used along Manitoba's southern boundary; the other is Emerson's first jail.

Many stories may be told of the old oak-log building which housed the customs office. Said to date back to the early 1850's, it was built by a well-to-do Metis, Paul Laurent, on the Red River's west bank. Thus, it stood in what became the village of West Lynne, or "Pembina," as its first post office was called. The building served as Manitoba's first hotel, opened by David Sinclair, who later became rich in the diamond fields of South Africa. Legend has it that Louis Riel spent a night at the old stopping-place, when fleeing from Red River after the arrival of Wolseley's troops.

Winnipeg acquired its first customs house in 1870. The following March, J. F. Bradley was sent to establish an office at the border, in preparation for the opening of river travel in the spring. The log building at West Lynne was chosen for the purpose.

Six months later it fell into the hands of Fenian raiders, who captured North Fort Pembina and scattered its stores. But the party of some forty men was almost immediately rounded up by American troops from across the line.

The customs house figured in the famous Lord Gordon case of 1873, his Lordship being a clever confidence man who posed as a member of the British aristocracy. After having swindled a number of Americans and become involved in a lawsuit with the millionaire, Jay Gould, Gordon fled to Canada. Here, for two years he

lived quietly in Winnipeg, where he made many friends. In the summer of 1873 American authorities learned of his whereabouts. Two policemen were sent from Minneapolis with a warrant for his arrest.

They seized Gordon, bound him hand and foot and set off for the border via the Pembina Trail. Close to the customs house at West Lynne, Gordon's captors were arrested by customs officer Bradley, who, as justice of the peace, had been alerted from Winnipeg. Gordon was freed, while those involved in his seizure were held on a charge of kidnapping and placed in the jail at Fort Garry.

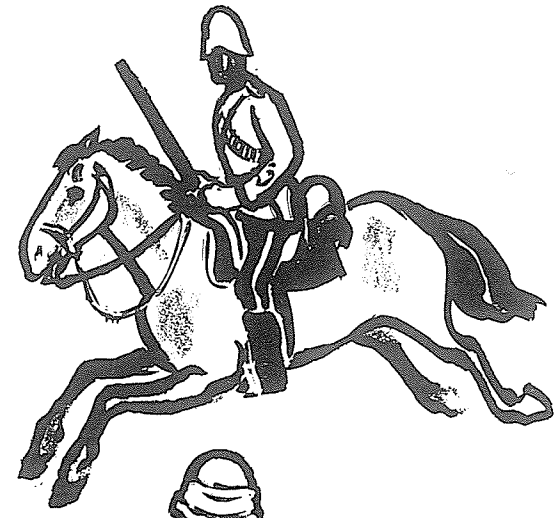
The incident now developed into an international affair, with copious correspondence passing between Winnipeg and Minneapolis, Ottawa and Washington. There was involved debate as to the validity of the warrant for Gordon's arrest on Canadian soil, as well as to the exact location of the boundary line. Had the Americans been arrested in Canada or the United States?

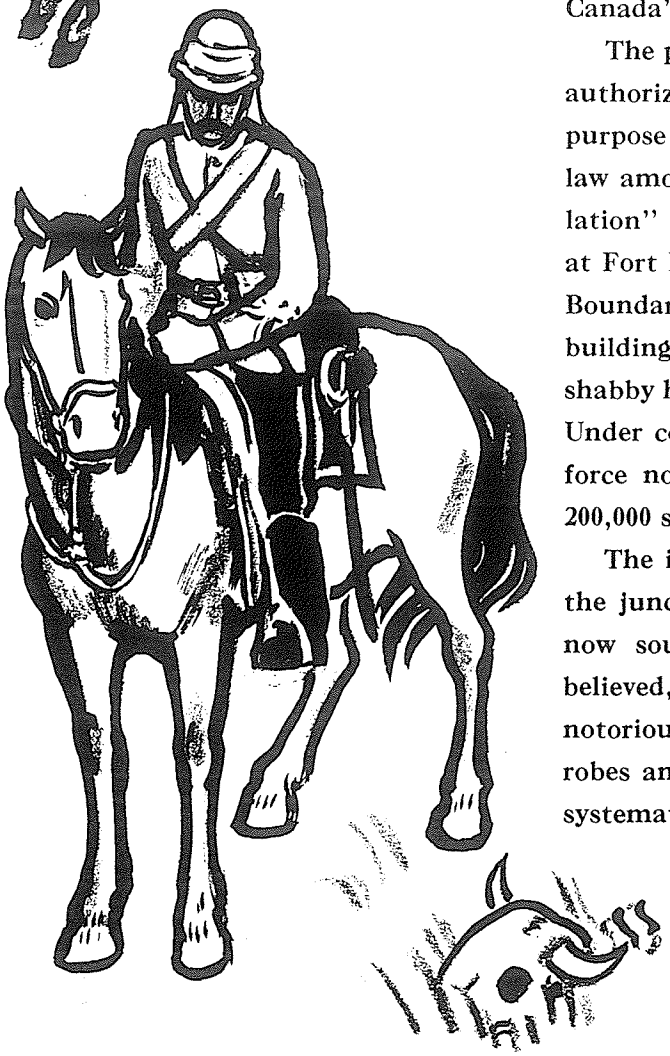
Two months after the "kidnapping," the issue was settled pleasantly. The Americans agreed to plead guilty. In return, they were sentenced to twenty-four hours in jail. The affair ended less happily for Gordon, who, realizing that he must pay for his crimes, eventually committed suicide.

When the question of the boundary was decided, it was discovered that Manitoba's customs house stood a short distance south of the new line. But there it was allowed to remain until 1879. Then a post office was opened in Emerson and a customs office set up in the new building.

The old log structure stood on American soil for more than twenty years. In 1899, George Pocock, a resident of Emerson, purchased it with the intention of moving it to his property and converting it into a barn. This step was protested by the old Winnipeg Telegram, which urged that if the building were restored, it might become "an international and historic landmark for generations to come." Apparently no support for the project was forthcoming, for the structure was taken to Emerson, where for many years it stood behind the Pocock home. In 1953 it was rescued by the Manitoba government and set up in the park close to the bridge.

Its companion beside the river, the old jail house, has a briefer history. It was built in 1879, when the growing town decided that a jail was necessary. Previously, miscreants had been lodged in the blacksmith's shop. The jail house took its name from the local police officer, Jack Bell, being known familiarly as "Hotel de Bell." Overgrown with Virginia Creeper, it stood for many years on its original location. In 1953, it was placed beside the customs house in the park.





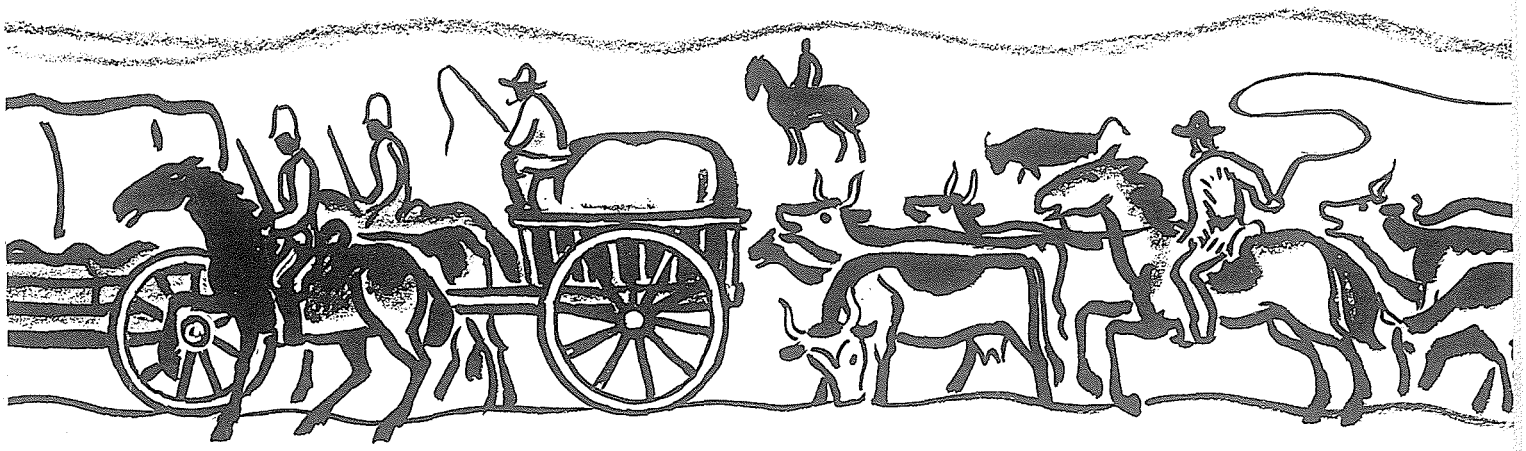
The Queen's Law

ON THE EVENING OF JULY 8, 1874, a colorful cavalcade moved off from Fort Dufferin: 274 red-coated men, mounted on horses, together with a long string of Red River carts and their Metis drivers.

No official ceremony marked the departure but it was a historic occasion. The first contingent of North West Mounted Police was beginning its famous eight hundred mile trek westward to set up posts across Canada's far-flung and lawless North West Territories.

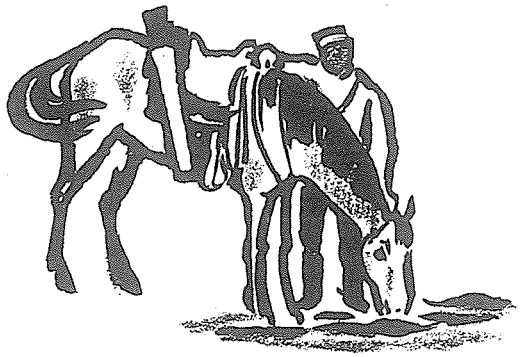
The previous year, formation of the force had been authorized by an act of the Dominion Parliament, its purpose being "to establish and maintain the Queen's law among the Indians and rapidly increasing population" of the northwest. Six troops had assembled at Fort Dufferin, built in 1872 as headquarters of the Boundary Commission party. Around the group of buildings, two miles north of the present Emerson, a shabby hamlet of saloons and shanties had sprung up. Under command of Commissioner G. A. French, the force now set out to assume its task of patrolling 200,000 square miles of territory.

The immediate destination of the little army was the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers in what is now south-west Alberta. Near this point, it was believed, stood Fort Whoop-up, largest and most notorious of the "whisky posts". In return for buffalo robes and furs, outlaws from across the border were systematically debauching the Indian tribes.



Marches West

The mile-and-a-half long procession moved slowly, for it included cattle for slaughter, field pieces and mortars, mowing machines and portable forges—all the equipment necessary to make the force self-supporting for a long period. For approximately 250 miles the line of march followed the Boundary Commission Trail, paralleling the border. Then it swung northwest into untracked territory.



Some two months of travel brought the troops to the junction of the two rivers in the heart of the Blackfoot Country. But Fort Whoop-up could not be located. French had no way of knowing that it stood at the forks of the Belly and St. Mary's Rivers, seventy miles west. With supplies almost gone, horses and oxen dropping from exhaustion, the force turned toward the fertile region of the Sweet Grass Hills on the international boundary.

French and Assistant Commissioner J. F. Macleod now journeyed one hundred miles south into the Territory of Montana, where, at the United States army depot of Fort Benton, they purchased fresh horses and supplies. A telegraph message, sent from Benton to Ottawa, brought the information that police headquarters was to be in northwestern Manitoba, not far from where Swan River stands today. Therefore, French, with two troops, began the long trek northeastward, while Macleod, with the remaining men, pushed on toward the foothills of the Rockies.

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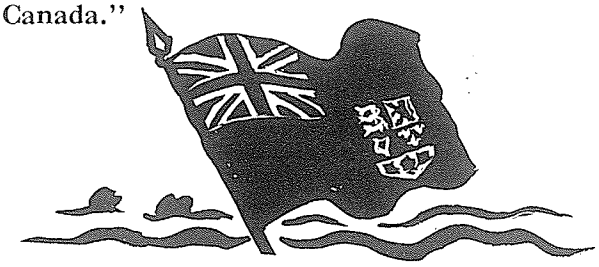
En route Fort Whoop-up was located but instead of the hundreds of armed outlaws reported to be there, only an old man and one or two Indian squaws greeted the troops. The traders had scattered at news of their approach. Macleod proceeded to a point on the Old Man's River, where in mid-October construction of Fort Macleod was begun. The fort was the first outpost of authority in the far west.

French had his first view of the Swan River barracks on October 20. To his dismay, he found that neither accommodation nor supplies were sufficient for all his men. Leaving one troop behind, he returned to the original starting point, Fort Dufferin, thus completing a round trip of 1,959 miles. In spite of all the difficulties, the Commissioner commented, the force had performed a march which many had believed impossible.

"For hundreds of miles we went over country never traversed by white men; we had to cut down banks, make roads and crossings of streams and coulees; and, by the Mercy of Providence, we (came) through all without death . . . Hunt up your history and let me know if there is anything ahead of this on record."

From 1874 on the transformation of the west from an unknown wilderness to one of the world's greatest agricultural regions took place under the surveillance of the North West Mounted Police. The ruinous whisky traffic was abolished and the confidence of the Blackfoot Confederacy won. In addition to apprehending murderers, cattle-rustlers and other wrong-doers, the red-coated "riders of the plains" battled prairie fires, rescued victims of winter blizzards, collected customs dues, carried mail and maintained order in mining, lumber and railway construction camps. In the North West Rebellion of 1885 they played a notable part. In recognition of its record of service, the prefix "Royal" was bestowed on the force in 1904 by King Edward VII. Early in 1920 the whole of Canada came under its jurisdiction, the name being changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

No trace of the Dufferin barracks remains today but its location is marked by a cairn on the old Highway Number Seventy-five two miles north of Emerson. "The record of this distinctively Canadian force," reads the inscription, "is a source of pride to the people of Canada."



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