

# The Fur- Trade Rivalry and the Red River Colony in the 1800s



# Timeline

A topographic map of North America is shown in the background. A red rectangular box highlights the Red River area in the central part of the continent, specifically around the Red River and the surrounding plains.

- 1670 HBC founded
- 1783 NWC founded
- 1810 Metis active in Red River area
- 1812 Selkirk Grant
- 1814 Pemmican Proclamation
- 1816 Battle of Seven Oaks
- 1821 HBC and NWC merge
- 1840 Metis fight for right to trade furs
- 1868 Canadians survey Red River area for new townships
- 1869 HBC land is sold to Canadian Gov't
- 1869 Metis revolt at Red River
- 1870 Manitoba enters Confederation

# Fur Trade

- what's going on here?





"CONTINENTAL"  
COCKED HAT.  
(1776)



"NAVY"  
COCKED HAT.  
(1800)



ARMY. (1837)



CLERICAL.  
(Eighteenth Century)



(THE WELLINGTON.)  
(1812)

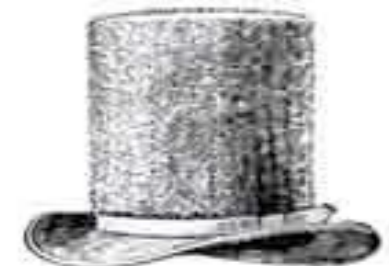


(THE PARIS BEAU.)  
(1815)

CIVIL.



(THE D'ORSAY.)  
(1820)



(THE REGENT.)  
(1825)

MODIFICATIONS OF THE BEAVER HAT.

# HBC



# York Boat



- 12 metres long
- crew of 6-8 oarsmen
- payload of 3 tons (2700 kg)
- clinker-built out of large timbers
- used on the rivers between HBC forts and Hudson Bay



# York Factory

# NWC





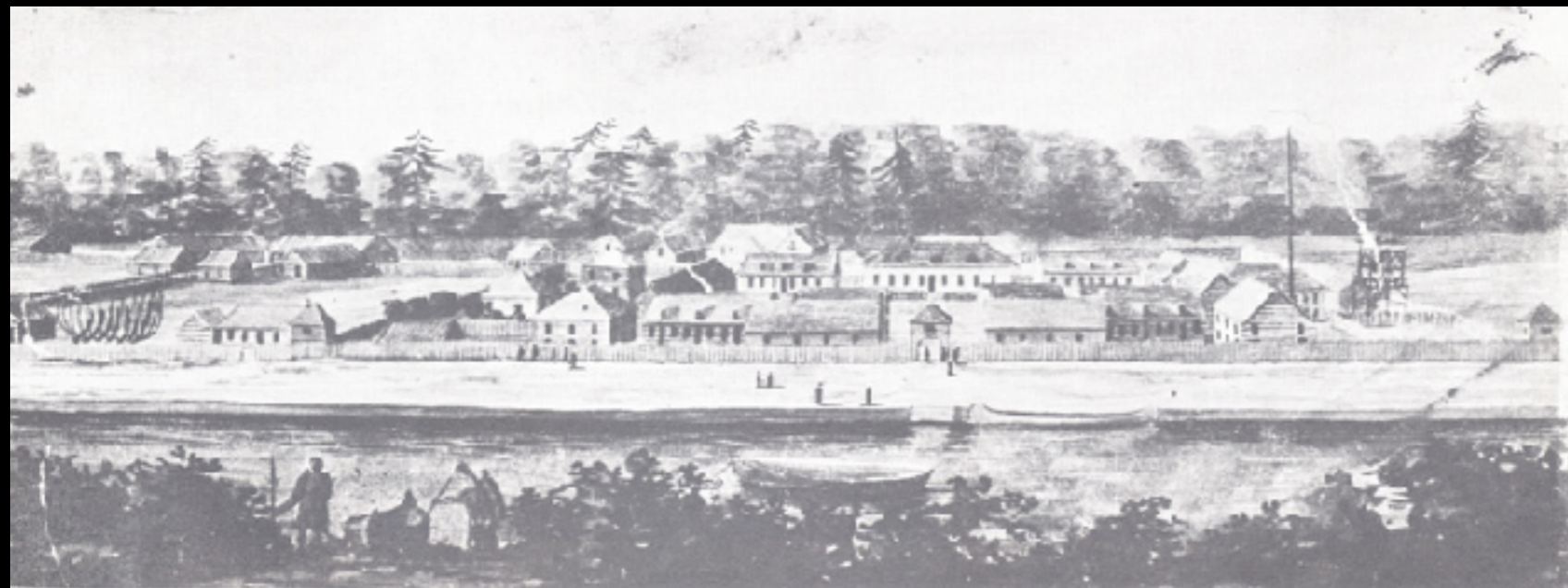
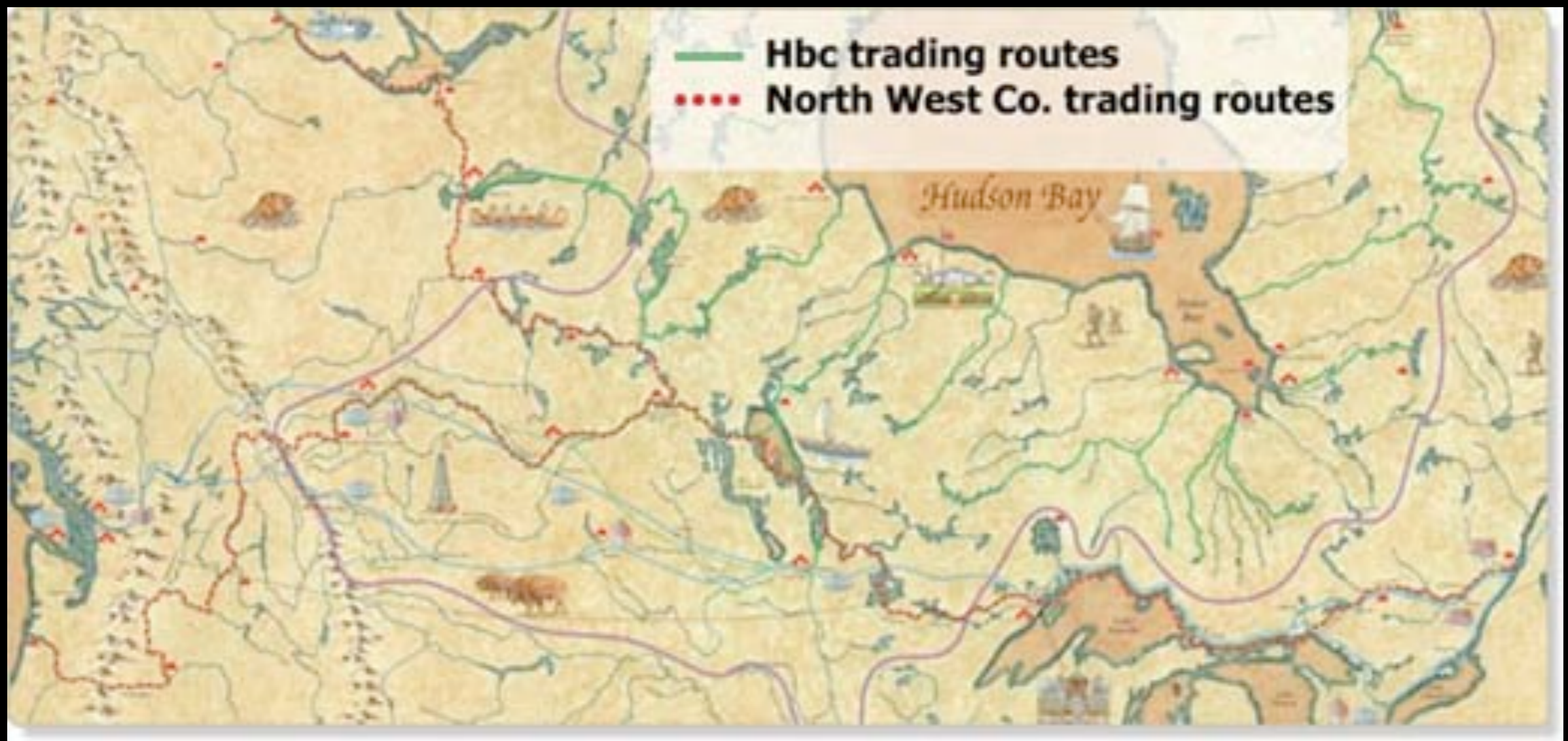
# NWC



# Prewar Boundaries 1775

# Postwar Boundaries 1783







- 12 metres long
- crew of 10-12 paddlers
- portaged by 4 men
- payload of 4 tons (3600 kg)
- birchbark on wooden frame
- used between Montreal and Grand Portage/  
Fort William (St. Lawrence and Great Lakes)

# Canot du Maitre

also called the  
Montreal Canoe

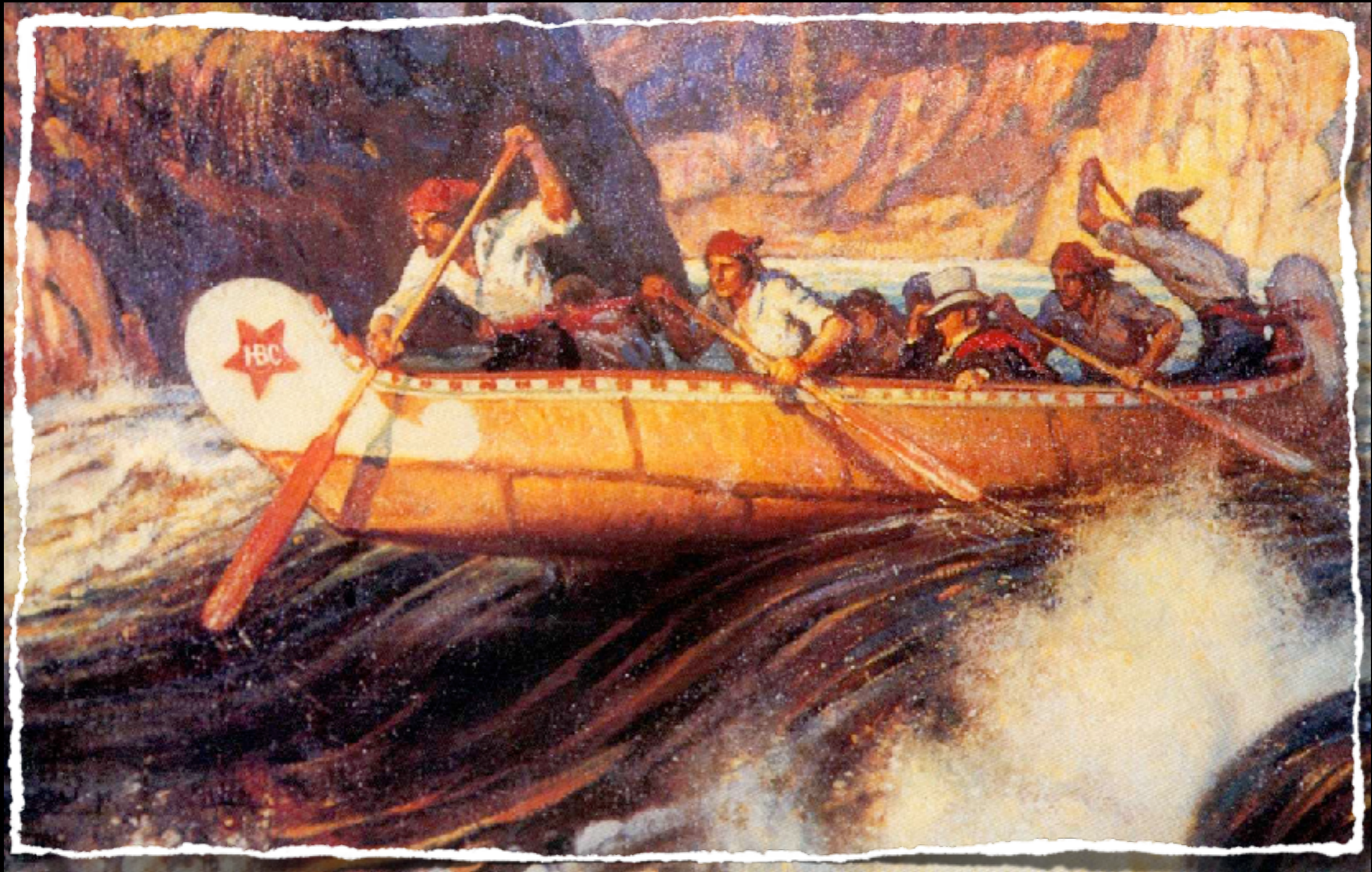
# Canot du Nord



- 7 metres long
- crew of 6-8 paddlers
- portaged by 2 men
- payload of 1.5 tons (1400 kg)
- birchbark on wooden frame
- used throughout the Northwest (Athabaska territory, Columbia District)



# Canot Léger (Express Canoe)



- 5 metres long, crew of 6-8 paddlers
- used to carry important people

Which company do you think aboriginal traders would have preferred doing business with?



# Who lived in the northwest before europeans arrived?

- Ojibwa
- Assiniboin
- Cree
- Chipewyan
- Inuit (but outside of the main boundaries of the fur trade)





# What role did Aboriginals play in the fur trade?

- traders
- trappers
- middlemen
- guides
- interpreters



White traders bartering with the Indians.

Was the fur trade beneficial for both parties?

consider:

- impact on fur companies
- impact on culture
- change in subsistence
- dependence
- environment
- disease



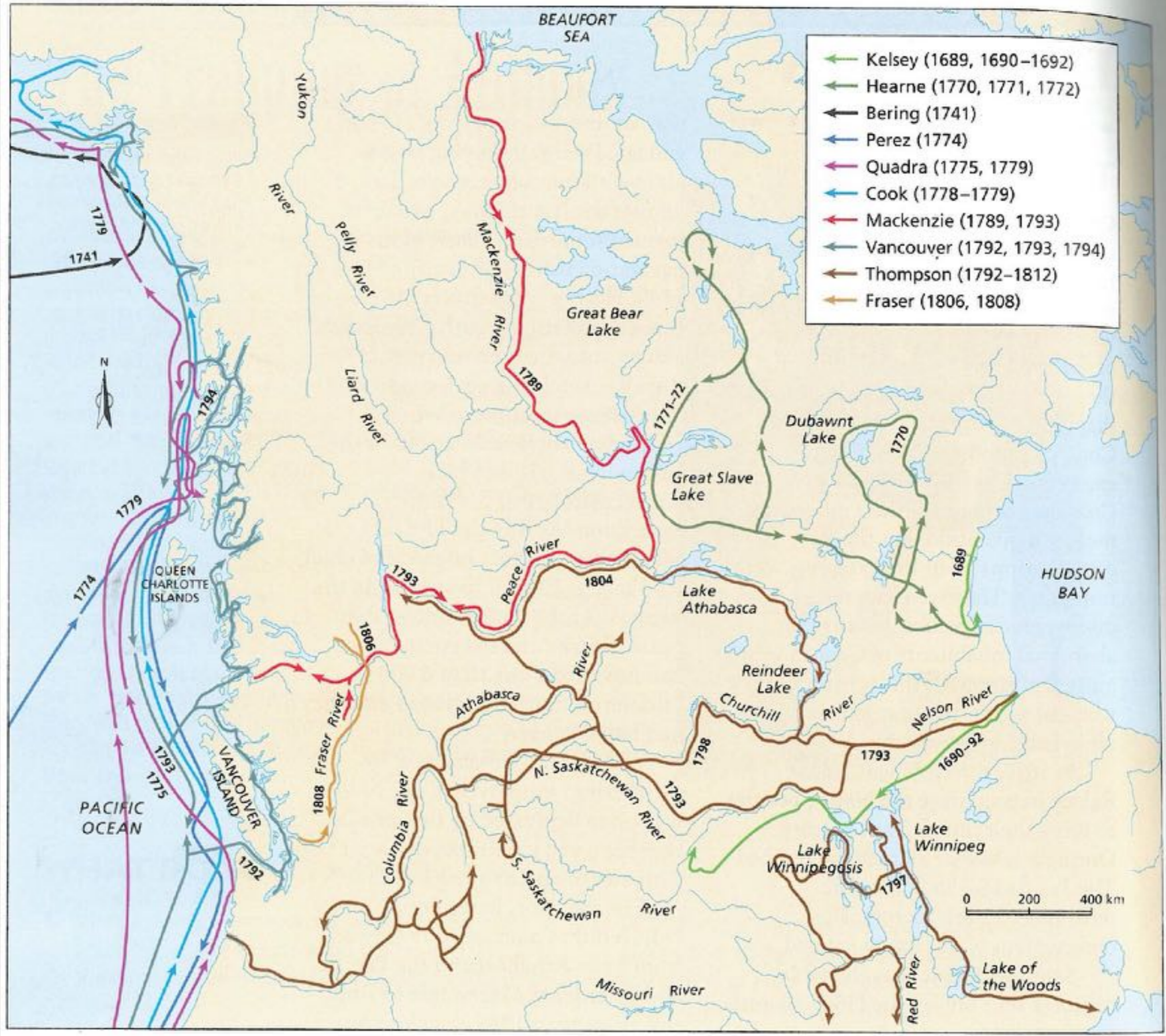
# Exploring the Interior

What do you think motivated  
the fur trade companies to  
send people out to explore  
and map areas unknown to  
them in North America?



THE DESCENT OF THE FRASER RIVER, 1808

From a colour drawing by C. W. Jefferys



- ← Kelsey (1689, 1690-1692)
- ← Hearne (1770, 1771, 1772)
- ← Bering (1741)
- ← Perez (1774)
- ← Quadra (1775, 1779)
- ← Cook (1778-1779)
- ← Mackenzie (1789, 1793)
- ← Vancouver (1792, 1793, 1794)
- ← Thompson (1792-1812)
- ← Fraser (1806, 1808)

0 200 400 km

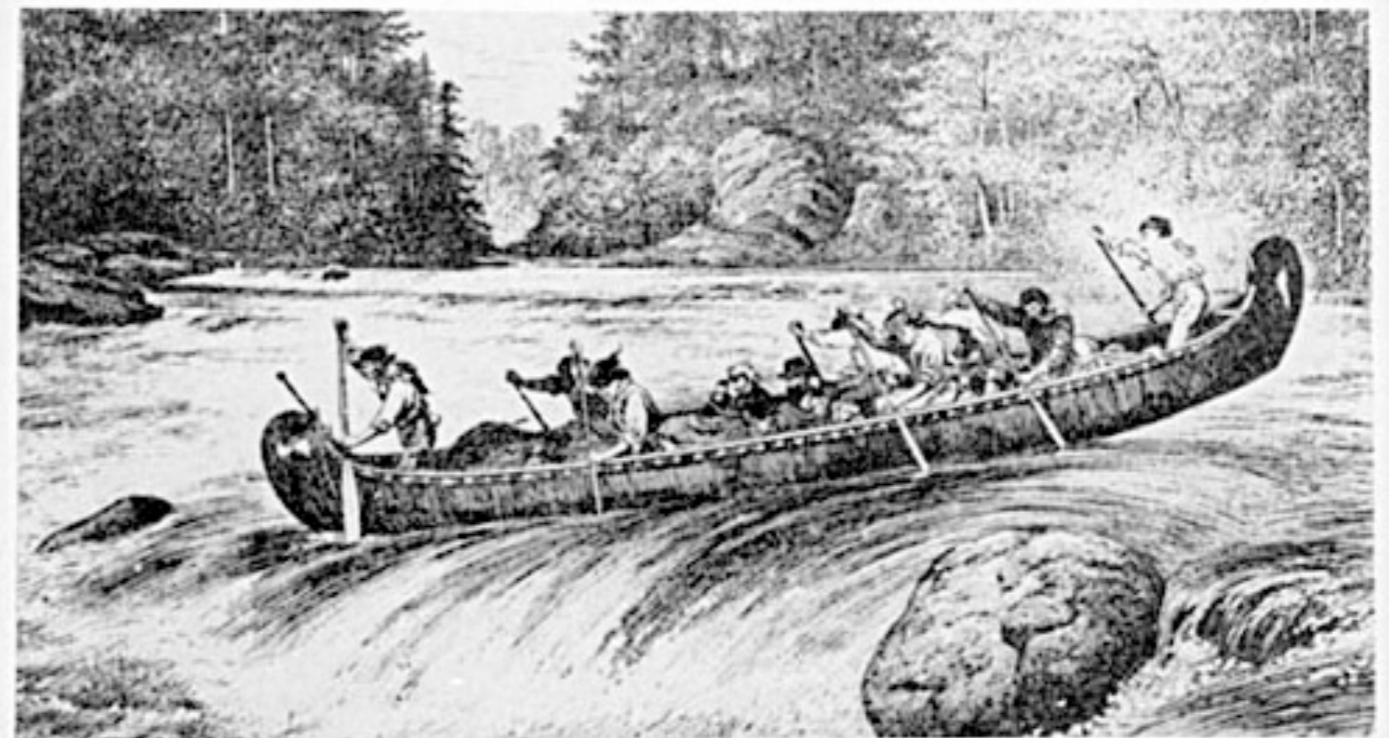
# Thompson's Great Map of the North West



# Metis vs Country-born

“country-born” =  
people descended  
from Scottish and  
English fur traders

tended to trade with  
HBC. while Metis  
traded with NWC



*A fur trade canoe on the Mattawa River, Ontario, pictured by Frances Hopkins*

# Metis



A WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SCENE IN 1883



- Aboriginal and French-Canadian fur trader descent
- Catholic, with Native beliefs
- French of Michif

# The Bison (Buffalo) Hunt



- main source of nutrition
- importance to Metis culture and economy



# Red River Cart



- simple wooded box on an ungreased axle
- used for bison, pemmican, and trade goods
- pulled by oxen... up to 550 kg
- noisy... the “Northwest Fiddle”
- went through a few axles on an average trip



# Metis & Pemmican



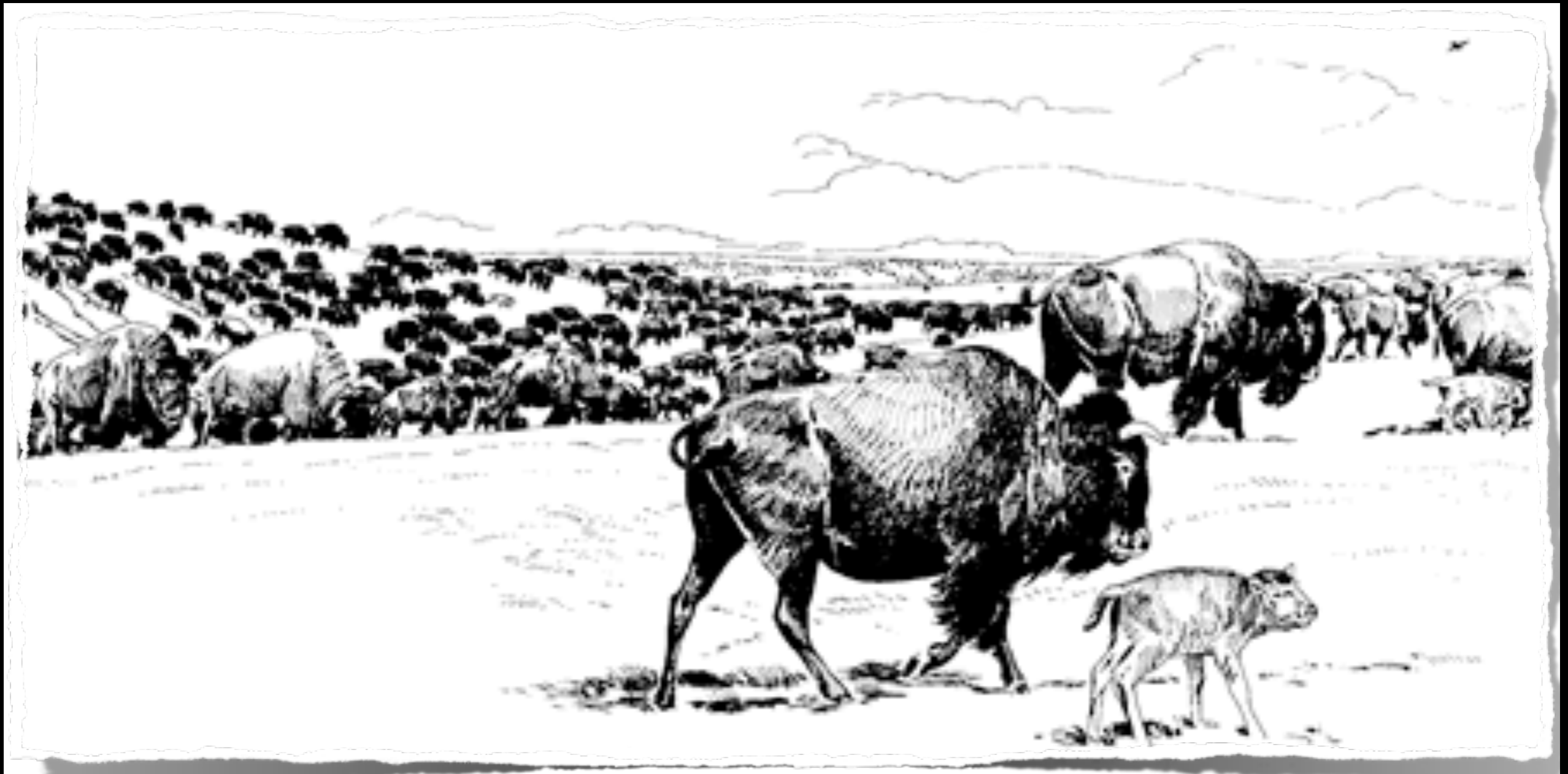
# Also... the Metis farmed



Drew on European heritage and skills they acquired from Scottish settlers.

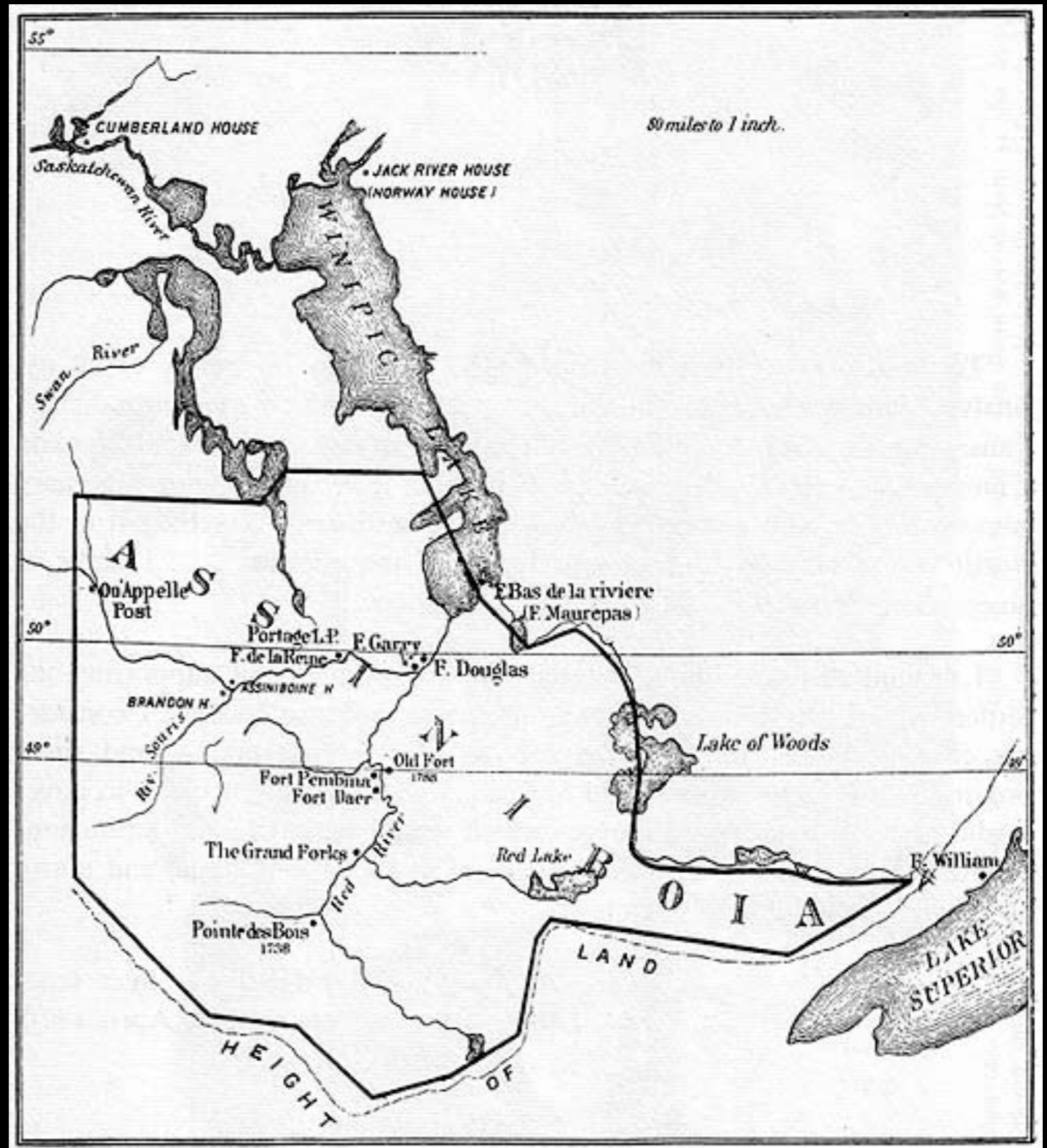
Generally, they only farmed on a small (subsistence) scale, and depended more on the spring and fall buffalo hunts.

- Why do you think the Metis had such strict rules governing the bison hunt? (good reference to this on Horizons pg. 141)

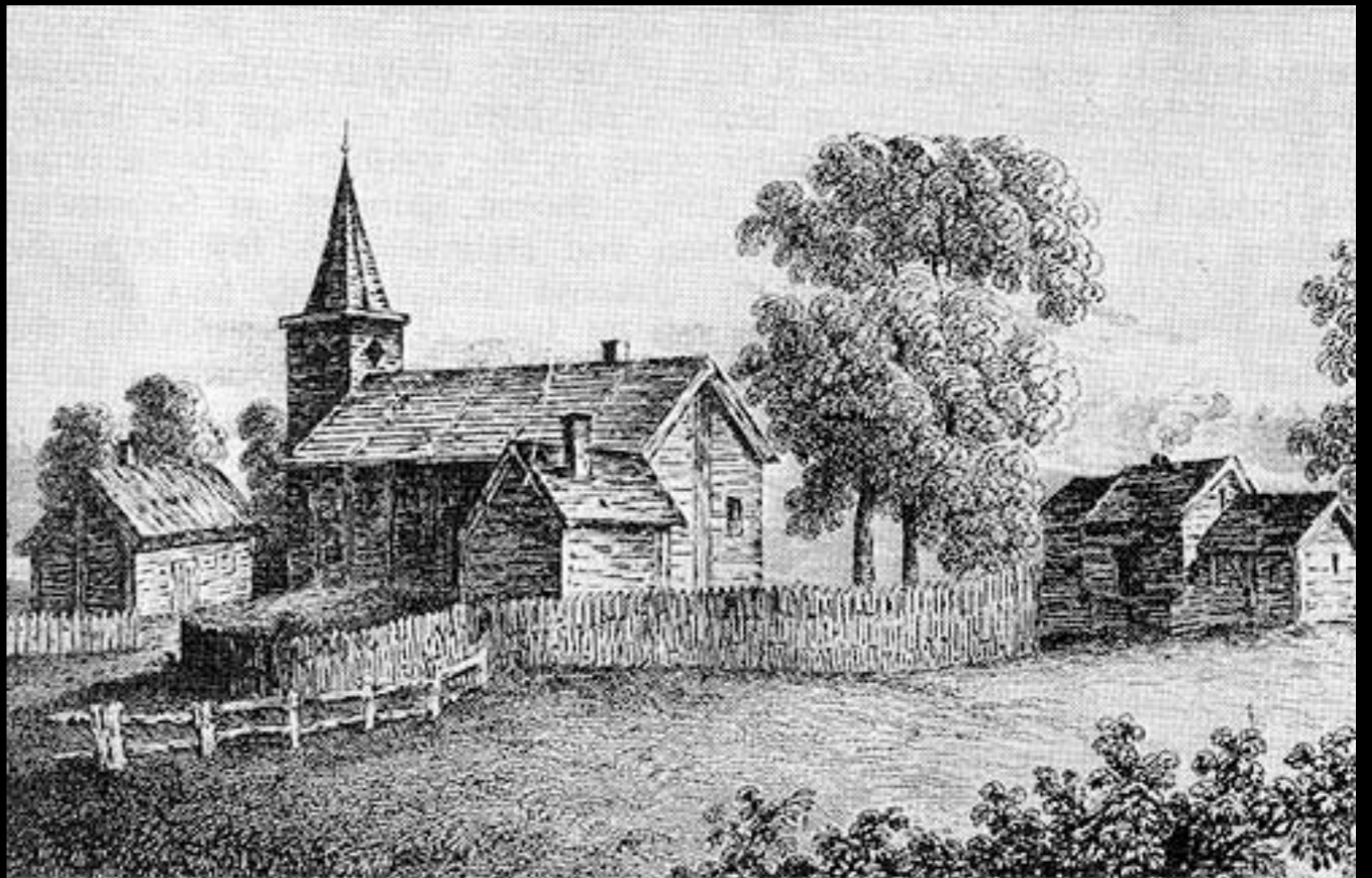
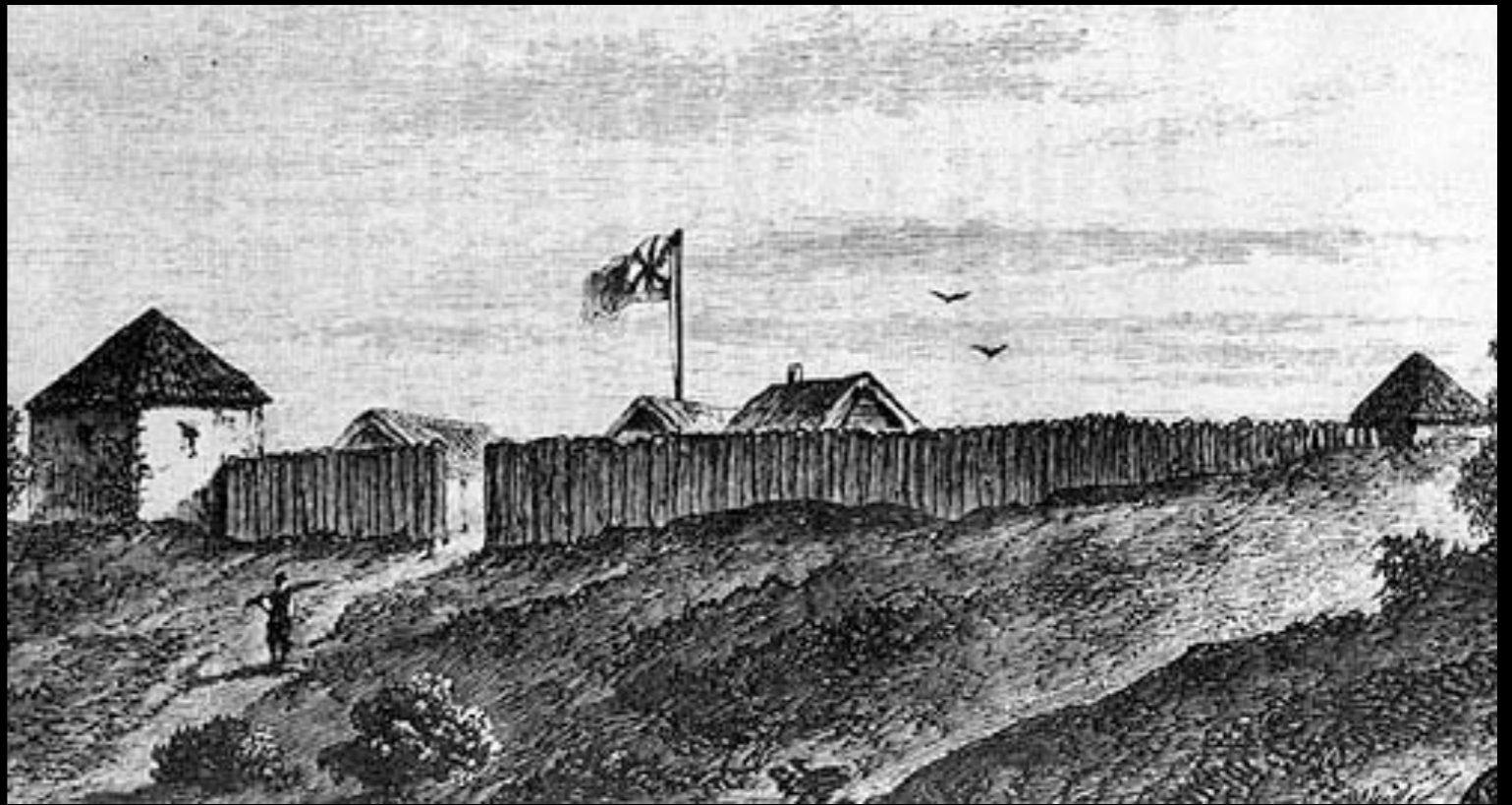


# Selkirk Land Grant

- displaced crofters
- difficulty getting established



- Macdonell's Pemmican Proclamation
- clashes between HBC/Selkirk settlers and NWC/Metis traders



# Seven Oaks - Battle or Massacre?





- merger
- new governor
- v. different management style
- relative peace
- Red River becomes a “community”

*Handwritten signature*

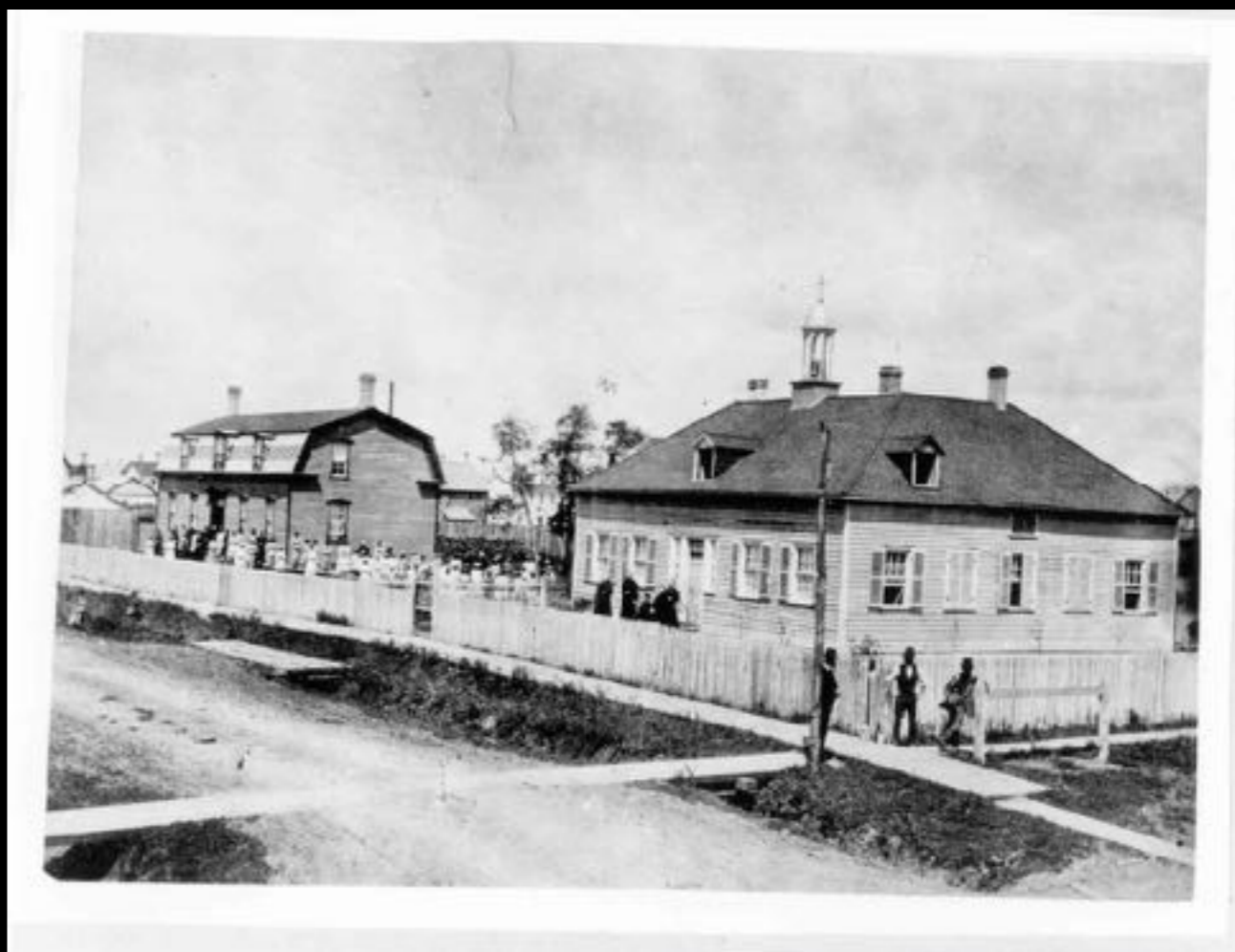




# Red River Grows



*St. Devil's Lake*



# HBC sells the Northwest to Canada



## THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES. PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Honourable William Macdougall, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council of Canada, and Comptroller of the most honorable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories, &c., &c., &c.

To all to whom these shall come, greeting.

Whereas her Majesty the Queen, by letters patent under the great seal of the Dominion of Canada, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, in the thirty-third year of her Majesty's reign, has been graciously pleased to constitute and appoint me, on, from and after the day to be named by her Majesty for the admission of Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory into the union or Dominion of Canada, to be Lieutenant-Governor and over the North-west Territories during her Majesty's pleasure, and did thereby authorize and empower, and require, and command me, on, from and after the day aforesaid, to do and execute all things in due manner that shall belong to my said command and the trust reposed in me, according to the several powers and instructions granted or appointed me by that her Majesty's commission and the act of the parliament passed in the thirty-second year of her Majesty's reign intitled an act for the temporary government of Rupert's Land and the north-western Territory when united with Canada, and the instructions given me with such commission, or by such further instructions as may hereafter be given in respect of the North-west Territories and the government thereof by her Majesty's Governor-General in Council, under the sign manual or through one of Her Majesty's Privy Council of Canada, according to such laws as are now and shall hereafter be in force within the said north-west territories.

And whereas her Majesty has declared and named the first day of December instant as the day for the admission of Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory into the union and Dominion of Canada; and whereas by virtue and in pursuance of the British North American Act of 1867, the Rupert's Land Act of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, the said act for the temporary government of Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory when united with Canada, and the said declaration and order of her Majesty, Rupert's Land and the north-western territory have been admitted into union with, and have now become part of the Dominion of Canada, and are henceforth to be known as the north-west Territories.

Now know ye that I have thought fit to issue this Proclamation to make known her Majesty's said appointment to all officers, magistrates, ministers and subjects of her Majesty, and others within the said north-west territories, and I do hereby require and command that all and singular the public officers and functionaries holding office in Rupert's Land and the north-western Territory at the time of their admission into the union as aforesaid, excepting the public officer or functionary at the head of the administration of affairs, do continue in the execution of their several and respective offices, duties, places and employments and otherwise ordered by me under the authority of the said last mentioned act; and I do hereby further require and command that all her Majesty's loving subjects and all others whom it may concern do take notice hereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at Red River in the said Territories, the second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and in the thirty-third year of Her Majesty's reign.

William Macdougall.

By command. J. A. N. Provencher, secretary.

Canadians survey the Red River Colony in 1868.  
They are locating new townships for settlers from the east.



# 1869 • The Metis Resistance Riel and his Provisional Gov't

