

THE METIS SINCE 1870

INTRODUCTION

The recent historiography on the history of the Metis has taken a change for the better. Publications now emphasize the roles of individuals other than Riel and Dumont. Twentieth Century personalities, contemporary land claims and, even Metchif French are not given prominence. This special issue of the Canadian Journal of Native Studies reflects the new historiography. Topics which were once simply included within a general overview of Metis history are presented in this volume. Essays on Metis material culture, land claims, agriculture, commissions, Metis cultural and Ethnic compositions, and the Metis in literature form part of this special issue. Metchif French, for too long considered a "patois", is included as is a comparative study of Metis, Hybrid societies of Western Canada and Southern Africa. The role of the Metis during the treaty making process, something that has been too long overlooked, is evaluated using Treaty 3 as a model.

The many Native Studies Departments and Programs across this country must be given credit for this new approach to research going on in Metis history. As well, those individuals working for government agencies must also be given recognition/or their continuous and on-going support.

The papers in this volume were presented to a Metis Symposium held in Winnipeg on November 5, 6, 1982. The Symposium was sponsored by the Native Studies Department of Brandon University. The majority of papers presented are included in this volume. Some are not included because the individual had already committed their presentation for publication elsewhere.

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