** History Assignment 4:**

**Early Years of Independence**

**Date:** Due

**Overview:**

In 1869, 25-year-old Louis Riel became the leader of the Métis in Red River. He was well educated, religious, and a good speaker. Although he was born in Manitoba, he lived in Quebec for ten years while going to school. Riel returned to Manitoba when the transfer and surveying of Rupert’s Land began to stir up controversy.

When Riel’s cousin tried to stop surveyors from coming onto his land, Riel helped him. Soon after that, the Métis organized the National Committee of the Métis of Red River and elected Riel as secretary. The committee sent a note to Ottawa saying that the newly appointed lieutenant-governor, McDougall, should not try to come to Red River without special permission of the committee. When McDougall came, a group of Métis stopped him and escorted him to the U.S. border.

At the same time, however, Riel maintained that he was loyal to the Crown and wanted to negotiate with the government. He believed that the West had a right to have some say in the terms of joining Confederation. He tried to persuade the English-speaking residents of the settlement to join forces with the Métis and so deal with the Canadian government as a unified community.

When those efforts failed, Riel set up a provisional government. His plan was that the Métis and the Canadian government would co-operate to establish a permanent government that the Métis could support. Riel and the provisional government drew up a list of demands called the Métis List of Rights (see notes).

When Scott came to Red River, Riel regarded Scott as a threat. After the execution of Scott, hostility was created towards Riel. In the eyes of the Canadian government, Riel was a criminal. The government issued a warrant for his arrest. Riel and many of his followers knew it would be difficult to resist Canada and the settlers. Riel fled to the United States, and many of his followers went to what is now Saskatchewan. They hoped to escape from the pressures that settlement brought. However, the story of Riel and his followers was far from finished.

**Preparation Work and Tasks:**

1. The Métis predicted what would happen in Red River when the land surveyors arrived. Draw an eight-frame cartoon strip to illustrate each prediction described. **(20)**
2. Read the Métis List of Rights from your notes and make a copy of the following organizer. Rewrite each of the six points in the list in your own words, then place it in the appropriate column of the organizer. To help you, one item has already been placed in the organizer. **(10)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Government** | **People** | **Language and Religion** |
| Northwest Territories should become a province of Canada |  |  |

1. Do you feel that Louis Riel is a hero or a villain? Defend your answer by providing evidence to support your position. **(20)**

**Evaluation:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Level 4** | **Level 3** | **Level 2** | **Level 1** | **%** |
| Research and Knowledge | The assignment demonstrates exceptional knowledge of the conflict of the early years in the Red River settlement. | The assignment demonstrates adequate knowledge of the conflict of the early years in the Red River settlement. |  |  | 30 |
| Information | The information describes many significant examples of the conflict that existed in the early years of the Red River settlement. | The information describes a few significant examples of the conflict that existed in the early years of the Red River settlement. |  |  | 30 |
| Design and Presentation | The assignment’s design and layout is very attractive and inviting. | The assignment’s design and layout is fairly attractive and inviting. |  |  | 40 |