Historical Manitoba

Manitoba has been prominent through Westerner's Day, 1888. From the time several developments commenced simultaneously on the Red River Settlement of 1812, with its population of 2,145 persons in 1843, the province has grown to the new Province of Manitoba with a present population of over 700,000 persons.

(1) The Selkirk Settlers, which marked the first permanent settlement in the Province, is that of Captain Thomas Bulmer who in 1812 sailed along the western shore of Hudson Bay and discovered the Nelson River, which takes its great name from Henry Nelson, a Hudson's Bay Company trader who lost his life in the Nelson River in 1670, during a portage from the fur trade. Captain Bulmer's band or contingent of 26 adventurers from the fur trade, King Charles II issued a charter to the Hudson's Bay Company, which gave the company full title to the lands of Rupert's Land, which included the Red River Valley. In 1869 Hudson's Bay Company surrendered its rights to the Dominion of Canada, which was formed and in 1869 the territory was made a part of Canada under the act of the North West Territory. The Lieutenant-Governor of these new territories, when proceeding to Fort Garry to take up his duties, was refused admission to the Fort by an armed force at the Salle River at the Village of St. Norbert and compelled to return to Pembina. Lieutenant-Governor Archibald, who was appointed Governor to assist in establishing the new order of government, then established himself at Fort Garry, and the Provisional Government of Louis Riel was established. The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John A. Macdonald, and the Hudson's Bay Company, which had surrendered its rights, agreed to the formation of a Provisional Government, which was established by the Selkirk Settlers with Louis Riel as President. From this period until 1871 there was constant warfare between the Selkirk Settlers and the Fort Garry Company, which finally ended with the Fort Garry Company's surrender to the Selkirk Settlers. In 1871 the first Selkirk Settlers arrived in the Dominion of Canada, and in 1872 the Hudson's Bay Company's rights were purchased by the Dominion Government for $1,500,000 and the Hudson's Bay Company's rights were surrendered to the Dominion Government. In 1881 Lord Selkirk purchased 116,000 square miles of land for Selkirk Settlers, which was established throughout the whole western country