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CANADA'S PUZZLE

Solved by the Hanging of Louis Riel on Tuesday.

The Story of His Last Days on Earth.

RIEL'S EXECUTION.

He Dies Easily and Without Theatrical Effect.

REGINA, N. W. T., Nov. 16.—Riel has been confined in the guard room of the Canadian mounted police barracks, whose headquarters post is located on the open prairie, three miles west of this place, ever since the conclusion of his trial here, in the month of July. His trial and sentence occurred in this city, which is the capital of the vast territory stretching north as far as Alaska and west to British Columbia, and known as the Northwest Territory. The territorial council meets here, and it is likewise the official residence of the resident lieutenant governor and other high appointive dominion officials. The leader of the metis (or half breeds) in their two revolts against the authority of the Canadian government has been kept under the closest surveillance by a force of mounted police stationed here. Ever since the denial of the imperial council of Great Britain to grant an appeal on behalf of Riel or to overturn the verdict against him, the espionage has been more strict than ever to guard against the escape of the state prisoner, and to prevent any attempt at a rescue, which might be made by his countrymen in Canada or over the American border. Ninety men were told off for this duty Saturday night, and last night even this number was increased by videttes occupying a commanding point a mile from the barracks and a double cordon about the camp proper. The prison of Riel was a long wooden structure, one story in height, with a long slanting roof, and small windows under the eaves, grated with iron. Two reliefs of guards occupied rooms in the front portion of the building, while six sentinels paced up and down continuously outside of the structure. Another sentinel was placed in front of the cell of

THE CONDEMNED HALF BREED,

and the precautions extended so far that an officer of the guard was compelled to visit, and certify that he had visited, his prisoner each quarter of an hour. Never was a captive more jealously guarded, and possibly never was a captive during the full period of his imprisonment less in need of a watch on his outward deportment. Whatever his character may have been in the field as a martial leader of his countrymen, in prison he has fallen but little short of a religeuse. His time has been devoted assiduously to prayer. Even when given his "constitutional," in the open ground adjoining the guard room, for an hour each morning, he has paced back and forth with his hands clasped together in front, his head bowed, with prayers issuing from his lips, voiced either in the French or Indian (Cree) tongue. Soon after his capture he professed to throw off his allegiance to the Roman Catholic church, and took the guise of a prophet, claiming to see visions foretelling events, but latterly, as his fate seemed more surely sealed, he sought comfort again of his original faith, and his constant and only companion in prison for the past two weeks has been Pere Andre, from Fort Albert, close to the scene of the recent rebellion. The churchman's visits have been twice daily, and in his absence Riel was seen frequently kneeling on his couch in prayer. When not engaged in devotions, his time has been spent in writing out predictions of the future and formulating a

DEFENSE OF HIS CONDUCT

in leading the half-breeds twice to war. These papers have been intrusted to Pere Andre, and will doubtless be produced some time in the future, although the prelate now refuses to surrender them to any one. No one, no matter what his credentials, has been permitted to pass through the guard room to see the prisoner in his cell, and his immediate friends did not see him, although no restriction was placed upon him. He received, a few days ago, a letter from his aged mother, which affected him visibly, but at no other time during his confinement did he show any signs of that weakness which was imputed to him after his capture by the Canadian scouts. The strict privacy of the prisoner was broken down for the first time yesterday, when a representative of the associated press was permitted to visit him, in company with the high sheriff and the commandant of the mounted police. This was on the occasion of the formal announcement that his death warrant had arrived. He anticipated what the sheriff would say in his own greeting: "Well, you have come with the great announcement; I am glad!" He said this looking at the sheriff with a resolute eye and without a tinge of braggadocio. He rallied the sheriff when the latter suggested that he should not speak too loud, saying, "You think I will speak too long, that I will be unnerved, oh no, at the last moment I will be firm." While it has been charged he showed a lack of spirit on the battlefield or in the presence of danger, no one would urge it against him in witnessing the nonchalance of his bearing and his sauvity of speach in acknowledging

THE FIAT OF HIS DOOM.

The stoicism lent by the savage strain in his blood, stood him well in hand as he made his final plea that he was urged on his career by the motives of a patriot, and said, "I have only this," stroking his breast, "to leave, and I tendered it to my country fifteen years ago and am willing to give it now." Beyond the prelate who visited him, it was the fate of Riel that there were none of his former companions, either from the political or personal field, that found their way to his cell, and beyond the announcement of the results of various stages of the trial, he had no knowledge of passing events or criticisms on his past career.

The same extraordinary precautions against the possible escape of Riel or the intrusion into the barracks of unauthorized persons was observed during the night and this morning, no one being permitted to enter the guard room until 8:12. The scaffold was erected within a contracted enclosure immediately in the rear of the guard house. The last sacrament was taken by the condemned within the guard house proper and near the opening which led to the scaffold. When the moment came to have his arms and hands pinioned, he kept looking up, slowly repeating his prayers. He then walked through the opening and down the narrow stairway with his face turned from the few civilians and soldiers who stood about. When he was about to

TAKE HIS PLACE ON THE TRAP

the deputy asked if he had anything to say. He turned to his confessor, Pere Andre, and inquired, "Shall I not say a few words?" "No," quickly replied the priest, "make this your last sacrifice, and you will be rewarded."

Riel turned and remarked in English, "I have nothing to say."

There was some difficulty in adjusting the noose, but Riel did not remark upon it, and as the white cap closed over him he was heard distinctly repeating his prayers. He died without a struggle. During the night Pere Andre urged upon Riel not to attempt an address upon the scaffold, and suggested that a reprieve might still be on its way, but this idea Riel strenuously repelled. He said he knew his hour had come, and that he was not only prepared, but that he would not have it any other way, as nothing but the alternative of prison for life awaited him, and to him death was preferble to that. During the night he addressed a letter to his mother and sister, which turned upon the affection he bore them. He added a codicil to his will, specifying that he desired his body to be laid beside that of his father, in St. Boniface cemetery, near Winnipeg, which request will be carried out. Pere Andre will go there with the remains within a few days; the body being interred to-day underneath the scaffold. He prayed almost continuously during the night, offering one prayer for his friends in the United States, where he declared most of them were, and again for his friends in Quebec, and for his lawyers. The attending father told him it was his duty to pray for his enemies; he replied: "That is so," and at once began to pray in English for the premier of Canada, but in his oblation he asked that the Dominion might soon be

RELIEVED FROM HIS RULE.

He partook of a light repast, at 11 o'clock last night, and ate no breakfast, which caused him to show at one time this morning signs of faintness, but he afterward completely recovered and displayed no effort in mounting the ladder which led to the attic of the guard house, on his way to the scaffold. There was scarcely a quiver as the drop fell, and his death was pronounced an easy one.

The execution of Riel is to be followed at Battleford by the hanging of ten Indian chiefs, for atrocities committed during the recent rebellion, and in each instance for murders committed. This will close the book of criminal procedure growing out of the northwestern war, as the others persons were convicted of prison offenses, all of which are now being served out.

The executioner of Riel was a man named Jack Henderson, who was a captive of Riel in the rebellion of 1870.

It would be difficult at this time to guage the sentiment in the Northwest territory as to Riel. The views expressed are almost entirely unfavorable to him, and the half-breeds are unusually silent upon the topic. The majority of the resident population believed he deserved death, and this is undoubtedly especially true in Manitoba. Here, where he was tried, there was some expression of sympathy for him, and at times the declaration that he was right in his demands, as they had nearly all since been granted to the half-breeds.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

MONTREAL, Nov. 16.—There was considerable excitement among French-Canadian citizens here when the news of Riel's execution was received. French-Canadian students to the number of 500 paraded carrying a tricolor banner.

QUEBEC, Nov. 16.—Excitement here over the execution of Riel is intense. When the news was received many French-Canadians were seen to drop tears from their eyes; but it seemed as if a thunderbolt had fallen among them, reversing their feelings to one of rejoicing, when the dispatch was received saying that he had died "game." Although the French-Canadians are agitated in the extreme, there has been no difficulty experienced.

TORONTO, Nov. 16.—Excitement here over Riel quickly subsided after it became definitely known that he had been executed. The courage displayed by Riel on the scaffold was admired, but no expression of pity could be heard at his fate.

Yesterday's Sports.

The race track was again crowded yesterday, the weather as on the day before being extremely propitious for outdoor sports. The managing committee made a good departure to-day in the way of stretching ropes along the last hundred yards of the track, also keeping the crowd entirely back. The events of the day were principally match races over which no small amount of money changed hands. In every case the finishes were exciting, with the exception of the foot race, which was a dead walk away for the cow puncher. The townspeople to a great extent had pinned their faith on the colored man, but the result of the race proved that their judgment had been considerably at fault. Yesterday's racing will probably wind up the proceedings for this fall outside of a few match races between cow horses which are on the tapis, and a great deal can be said in favor of the gentlemen who instigated the meeting, for the orderly and workmanlike manner in which the whole thing has been managed. There has not been a solitary objection to any of the decisions rendered and no single complaint of a foul has been heard, in fact the meeting wound up in the most satisfactory manner. We hope this will not be the last one of the kind. Wherever there are horses and men it is a natural result that there will be horse races, and a meeting of the kind for the purpose of testing the various merits of the town and country horses provides a good opportunity for sporting men to indulge in their favorite pastime, and for the public in general some incitement to make a slight relaxation from business enjoyable. Below we append the results of the various events in order:

First event, foot race, 75 yards, $100 a side; match between Curly Wilson and Jim Prentiss (colored); 1st, Curly Wilson; 2nd, Jim Prentiss. The colored man conceded Wilson ten feet on the start but the effort was entirely too much for him, Wilson winning an easy race by twenty-five feet. The betting was even, if anything in Prentiss' favor. A great deal of money changed hands. Time 7½ seconds.

Second event, horse race, $50 a side; 1st, J. Stafford's Tiger; 2nd, McGurk & Cook's Little Joker. This was a most exciting race, Tiger after a hard struggle winning by half a neck. Tiger had the call on the betting.

Third event, horse race, 300 yards, $200 a side; 1st, Sam Young's gray gelding; 2nd, Ed Surber's Baldy. The gray won somewhat easily by about a length. Betting was even.

Fourth event, horse race, 300 yards, $50; 1st, John Zook's roan gelding; 2nd, J. Stafford's gray gelding. Won easily by roan; betting even.

Fifth event, horse race, 300 yards, $100 a side; 1st, Sam Young's gray gelding; 2nd, E. Surber's roan gelding. The gray horse won an easy race by about a length; betting even.

Sixth event, horse race, 300 yards, $25 a side; 1st, S L gray colt; 2nd; Bud Burdett's gray gelding. The gray colt won easily by three or four lengths; betting even.