

"You touched on the myth spread by reaction that Riel was demented...

It was the clergy who engineered the slander that Riel was insane and which was seized upon by the reactionaries to justify a savage judicial murder. Their rejection of Riel and ex-communication of the militant rebels was a desperate effort to rectify a political blunder which on a national scale endangered clerical prestige, inflamed racial animosities, disrupted national unity and if not effectivly checked, by the hierarchy themselves, could have led to repressive measures by the Anglo-Saxon majority comparable to the politically motivated expulsion of the Jesuits from France. The callous sacrifice of Riel and the Metis people enabled them to regain their position without the expedient of open political compromise which would have been regarded as open betrayal by Quebec nationalists....

45.  
Brady  
to  
Swankey,  
Corres.,  
Research  
Library,  
Gabriel  
Dumont  
Institute,  
Regina.

In conclusion I wish to thank you for your effort and tell you I appreciated it immensely. Our Metis people made a great contribution to the democratic struggle. We have seen the passing of the buffalo, the autocrats of the early Hudson's Bay Company and the passing of our tradition to the militant labor movement of our time who are the true inheritors of our tradition of democratic struggle and we know that with their help we shall see the passing of the monopolists of the 20th century. With all best wishes.

Comradely yours,  
J. P. Brady." 45