

came forward to where I was standing and handed me a glass of brandy, which I accepted, for to have refused would have indicated that I was still nursing a grievance in the face of his apparent effort at appeasement.

"Mr. Erasmus, I called you here to congratulate you on your work. You are the first man I ever heard who interpreted to such a large audience without making a mistake. I see you have friends around here, although our first impressions may have discouraged this view."

It was pretty much of an after-dinner speech. Some of the Governor's guests applauded but I noticed that Clarke and Ballenden were not among them. Mr. Morris advised me that, beginning that day, I would be in his pay for the balance of the talks.

"Thank you, Sir. I hope that I may have better co-operation in the next few days. I promise to give you the best I have, and assure you that today's unpleasantness will not be repeated from our side."

I begged to be excused and took my departure without further words.

The next day the Police band preceded the Governor as before, but there was not so much pomp and display from the Government party. Even the Governor walked unescorted from his carriage the short distance to the stand. The Indians were already in place in their usual postures of comfortable listening as on the previous day.

The Commissioner formally opened the meeting by stating that today he wanted to hear what they had to say, adding, "I cannot go any further in regard to the terms I explained yesterday."

Poundmaker, who was not a chief at that time but just a brave, spoke up and said, "The governor mentions how much land is to be given to us. He says 640 acres, one mile square for each family, he will give us." And in a loud voice he shouted, "This is our land! It isn't a piece of pemmican to be cut off and given in little pieces back to us. It is ours and we will take what we want."

A strong wave of approval came back from the seated Indians at his statement. Some braves in the last row rose to their feet, waved their hands and arms, shouting, "Yes! Yes!" in Cree. Apparently these were Poundmaker's followers. It was some time before the main chiefs could restore order.

The Commissioner was visibly shaken by this demonstration that erupted at the beginning. His assumption had been that the Indians had completely adopted his treaty terms, which by his own words he was not authorized to change in any