

preparations to go to Fort Pitt when the two main chiefs called at our teepee to inform us that they had not collected all the money from their Indians for our pay.

"We were waiting for the Indians to receive all their treaty money before we started collecting your money."

I replied: "We will have to start today or this evening as it will just give us time to meet our appointment with the Governor."

"All right," said Star Blanket. "We will start at once and see what we can do. You must wait until we see you later in the day."

They handed me two hundred and thirty dollars that afternoon, and with the sixty I had received from the paymaster Mr. Christie, I felt well paid for my trip. I thanked them for the money and told them I was well satisfied with the amount they gave me.

An Indian stopped me while I was making the rounds of the traders' stores and offered to buy Whitey, my buffalo runner horse. "I want a hundred dollars for him without the saddle or bridle," I said.

He accepted at once and handed me a roll of bills for me to count out the money. I called Hunter to witness the counting, as he had been instructed in the use of money. The animal was good value for the price but I mention this incident to show how easily at that time the Indians could have been cheated out of their money.

I bought a good stout cart horse harnessed to a cart for fifty dollars to carry our duffle and the goods we bought. The traders were getting ready to move to the next trading spot at Fort Pitt and were offering some good deals to lighten their loads. I bought a shotgun practically new for about half the asking price from my new brother-in-law, then loaded our carts with staple articles of food and a stove. This would be the first cooking stove we would have since our marriage.

At our evening stop I took the gun and presented it to John Hunter; his pleasure was something to see, as he alternately polished the blued steel of the barrel and took aim as if to get used to the feel of the gun. Then I showed him a handsome piece of good print for dresses for his wife and some household utensils as well, but when I showed him all those things his former pleasure evaporated and he looked very grim.

"Peter," he said, "I cannot accept this gun with all the other things that you have bought for us. I never could match such a gift with a return. It is too much. My wife shall have all the things you bought for her but I am sorry you must take the gun back."