
CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Treaty No. Six

THE GOVERNOR'S TENT was pitched on a slight rise some distance from the fort. Most of the other officials were already waiting for him in the tent. Then the Governor's carriage appeared, accompanied by the Mounted Police and led by the promised band. The Police, dressed in their smart scarlet uniforms and riding well trained horses, made a big impression with the Indians. In fact the great prestige of the Governor was somewhat overshadowed by the smart appearance of his escort.

Many Indians of that camp were seeing the Mounted Police for the first time. Though small in number, the Police were to be an important factor in establishing in the minds of the tribes the fairness and justice of government for all the people regardless of colour or creed — something they had no concept of in its broader sense.

The Indian's own rules were handed down from the dim past, their oldest traditions accepted without question. The chiefs and councillors were chosen for outstanding qualities of character. Bravery and ability were the sole measures by which their leaders were qualified to take positions of trust. A son of a chief assumed office following the death of the chief only if he had proved himself qualified under these standards of office.

The Indians recognized and respected the personal qualities