

of the individuals comprising the Force as being the qualities they demanded in their own leaders. The administration of impartial justice without regard to colour or creed, and the tenacity of its members in carrying out their duties, soon became a topic of Indian campfire conversation. The small number of this Police Force would have been utterly incapable of handling the thousands of Indians if they had attempted to employ force to compel obedience.

The chief and his councillors administered the laws for their band and the tribe recognized the necessity for rules governing individuals who at times broke the rules set by their leaders for the benefit of the majority. That, in my opinion, is what made possible the successful role that this small Force played in the progress of settlement of one country.

Our approach to the Governor's tent was delayed by certain ceremonial proceedings that have been far better described than I feel capable of doing. However, let me say that these ceremonial practices had a deep significance to the tribes and can only be explained as a solemn approach to a vital and serious issue for discussion.

Few people realize that those so-called savages were far more deeply affected and influenced by their religious beliefs and convictions than any comparable group of white people, whose lip service to their religion goes no deeper than that. The forms of ceremonial behaviour with which the Indians approached the Governor's tent were based on practices whose actual meaning has long since been lost. The ceremony in the crowning of the kings and queens of England would have little meaning were it not for the benefit of a written language.

We were finally seated on the grass in a large semicircle in front of the Governor's tent crossed-legged, a position that seems to be the most restful and relaxed manner of listening to a speech. I have seen quite old men rise to their feet to speak from this position without the use of their hands or arms to assist them, all with apparently effortless ease. My own attempts in this regard were never graceful or even easy. I always had to use my hands and arms to assist me. It was a physical feat that I never successfully conquered.

We were patiently awaiting the Commissioner's convenience when the Hon. James McKay came to the front and called Peter Erasmus to come forward to interpret the Governor's speech. I rose to my feet and said, "I object, Sir. It is my impression that I am not employed by the government but am acting only on behalf of the chiefs assembled here. Therefore, I refuse to interpret the Governor's speech; that I consider is the