

moment was sweet but I could read consternation on the faces of my impolite friends at the table.

The Governor, who I could see was growing exasperated at these frequent interruptions to his talk, said, "All right, Erasmus. Let this be your chance to justify your chiefs' confidence in your work."

I immediately rose to my feet, stepped beside the Governor's table, faced the Crees, and spoke in Cree, reviewing the text of the Governor's speech to them. Then I motioned to the Commissioner to continue his address. I knew my voice had suffered nothing from my heated veins or the exultation that I felt at the complete disposal of the slight so desperately manoeuvred by these men sitting around the table. The Governor spoke for an hour or so explaining the purpose of the treaty and its objectives, and describing in some detail the terms. He especially emphasized the money each person would get. There were no further interruptions.

Once during a pause in the Governor's speech, the Honourable James differed with me over an interpretation of one word. However, his brother supported my interpretation in the matter and no further objections were expressed during the whole of the remaining treaty negotiations. Though that first day I felt high strung and angry over the treatment I had received, I was determined that nothing would prevent me from doing my work with credit to my employers and justice to the Governor's talks.

The Indians had retired to their teepees or were sitting in groups discussing the treaty terms. Hunter was around somewhere with the other Indians. I was reclining in our tent trying to calm my ruffled feelings and assess the value of my contribution to the talks when the Governor's cook stuck his head in the tent flaps and said that the Governor wanted to see me. I was about to give the men a curt refusal, thinking that sending the lowest man on their staff to summon me to the great man's presence was another effort to emphasize my status. Then I heard the Hon. James McKay, Christie, and Dr. Jackes questioning the cook, asking if he had found my tent. He answered in the affirmative; then they all came to the tent and said they were there to escort me back to the Governor's quarters. Entering, I stood without making any comment, awaiting the gentleman's pleasure. "Well, Mr. Erasmus. I suppose you are slightly exhausted over your labours this forenoon?" I thought I detected a slight hint of sarcasm in his tone and immediately answered, "No, Mr. Morris. Not by the work but by the preliminaries that led up to the work."

He smiled and I heard laughs in the background. Then he