

signatures to that historic document and other adhesions followed the same wording as that signed at Carlton. The reading of the treaty took a great deal of time and required the services of all the interpreters but this time there were no fireworks in the matter of words used, nor the objection to Ballenden's voice. Half the Indians were not concerned.

Mista-wa-sis had called me aside and told me to keep a close watch on the wording to see that it included everything that had been promised. However, the other chiefs appeared satisfied that the Governor would carry out his promises to the letter. I was able to assure Mista-wa-sis that everything promised had been included in the writing. He was satisfied and his name was the first in the signing.

The following day the Governor was at his tent at ten o'clock while the chiefs' uniforms were issued, complete with medals and a flag. The councilmen were to receive theirs at the Hudson's Bay store. The Governor gave them a short discourse on the meaning of the uniforms, which in substance meant that they were now representatives of the Queen Mother and to see that their people should receive justice, and on their part to fulfill the obligations contained in their positions. There would be an issue of uniforms to the men that they chose from time to time to represent them as chiefs and councillors.

There was a great deal of hand-shaking and some fine compliments exchanged on both sides before the Governor took his departure. Mista-wa-sis and Star Blanket, I knew, meant every word they said, as did the Governor. Poundmaker was equally well versed in complimentary words but I felt certain that he didn't mean a word he said; in this I was right, for eight years later he served in jail for his activities in the Riel Rebellion.¹³

Treaty payments were started immediately after the signing. Christie was in charge and retained me for the balance of that day to assist in the interpretations. "Peter, the Governor wishes to see you at the fort this evening for a private talk and I believe Clarke has something to say as well," he advised me.

Later in the evening I made the call.

"I'm proud of you, Erasmus," said Clarke, "the way you handled the first day of the talks. I was in a bad spot after hiring those two men. I could not go back on my word."

"Well, as it turned out there was no harm done, but I hope you realize that your actions almost created a riot and could have wrecked the whole business. Trying to pretend you did not know me that first evening I considered a rank insult, and that, my high-minded friend, I do not take without repayment.