

care lavished on us for our stay. Certainly it was the best hospitality that could be provided. The camp crier rode among the teepees and announced our arrival. He was riding on a gaily decorated pinto pony. He was telling the people that their interpreter had arrived and that the chiefs and councillors should get ready for the meeting the next day.

I decided to take a walk around camp and saw Governor Morris walking in front of the Hudson's Bay post. There were over 250 teepees on the Indian section of the grounds. It was an impressive sight. I had never seen so many teepees in one locality before. There were hundreds of horses feeding on the flats, some picketed close by their owner's teepee with the usual assortment of dogs which appeared to have barked themselves to exhaustion as they lay before each teepee.

Peter Ballenden and his brother Sam came to the chiefs and informed them that the Governor desired them to meet him at the fort that evening. I had just returned from my walk when Mista-wa-sis came to my tent and asked me to accompany them.

"I have been told," said the chief, "that the Governor has hired two other interpreters. However, we have decided to pay you ourselves, even if the Governor does not."

The chiefs were dressed in all their finery, feathers, plumes, and ermine-decorated coats. I felt a little out of place among the tribal costumes; and when we came before the assembled officials, they also had quite as great an array of finery as our Indian chiefs. My work clothes, though neat and clean, when compared against all the other finery were indeed inadequate. I wished that I had come better prepared for this situation.

When I saw Peter Ballenden and the Rev. John McKay seated among the official group, I presumed they were the interpreters the chief had mentioned. I was not too greatly concerned, as I knew both men; their ability as interpreters to a large gathering such as we would be faced with on the morrow would be tested to the limit.

Governor Morris, Hon. James McKay, Clarke, William Christie, now retired from the Hudson's Bay service, and a Dr. Jackes were all seated at the table when we entered.⁴ Clarke jumped up and came forward to introduce our party.

I was standing beside Mista-wa-sis, but Clarke paid no attention to my presence while he was conducting the introductions. Although Clarke, Ballenden, Christie, and the Rev. McKay all knew me by name, they did not offer any sign of recognition.

The Governor advanced and shook hands with the chiefs, saying, "I have come to meet you Cree chiefs to make a treaty with you for the surrender of your rights of the land to the