

We arrived at Fort Pitt ahead of the government party. A detachment of Police was already camped on the north side of the river and I counted a hundred Indian teepees camped on the flat near the fort.

We crossed the river with a boat that some traders were using to carry their goods across. Although the river was unusually low that fall, crossing goods over safely always gave some concern. By assisting the traders, we got the use of their boat that made the crossing a simple matter.

On the morning of September the fifth, the Governor and his party arrived with a Police escort that had gone out to meet him. All the tribes that were to meet there had not yet arrived but they had sent riders ahead to tell the others of their coming. Finally on the sixth, the last of the tribes pitched their teepees with the others.

I was resting under my cart when William Bull of the James Seenum band came to where I was resting. "The chiefs have called a meeting and have sent me to bring you to speak to them."

I thought it necessary for one of us to stay with our cart as there was a host of prowling dogs around. Train dogs are cunning beasts and I always said that I thought they would sooner steal than be fed in a proper way.

"Go ahead," said Hunter. "I can keep your shady couch warm till you return. Then we will move in with the chief Seenum and William who have invited us to share their teepee. We can get a canvas and bind our load for safety."

I was questioned at some length about the attitude of the tribes who signed the treaty at Carlton, about details in reference to treaty concessions, and the terms agreed upon, which by that time I had memorized by heart. I gave them a review of the discussions of the council meeting of the chiefs at Carlton, reporting the objections raised by those who opposed the signing, and spoke of the petition that had been drawn up for the Commissioner, with the points agreed to and those refused. I mentioned Poundmaker's and The Badger's efforts at trying to block or misinterpret the terms of the treaty, at which there were some expressions of disgust about their attitude.¹⁴ Then I wound up my talk by a report of the two speeches made by Mista-wa-sis and Ah-tuk-a-kup that had swung the whole opinion of the assembly in favour of the signing.

I could see that the content of these two speeches had a tremendous effect on my audience, as I had reserved the latter for the last before sitting down.

Sweet Grass, who was the most important chief among