

were carried out with a speed and intricacy of movement that was most confusing to those watching for the first time.

When the people were finally seated in their usual posture, sitting cross-legged, the Governor opened his address. There were no interruptions, but quiet attentive listening. At the conclusion of his talks, he asked the people for their opinions, but no one responded. There was a considerable pause as he waited for their reaction to his words. Morris looked puzzled, or rather "disappointed" might be the better description of his attitude. At other places he had received many objections and a lot of questions.

Finally Chief Eagle got to his feet, faced the people, and told them not to be afraid to speak their minds. If there was anything they did not understand or wished to know, this was the place and the time to express their thoughts. However, there was no response; apparently they had made up their minds the day previously.

Sweet Grass made a speech of some length, expressing his willingness on behalf of his people to accept the treaty terms and summed up his address by saying, "I am no wiser than my brothers at Fort Carlton who have accepted the Queen Mother's hand. I will sign for my people."

James Seenum spoke with some feeling, referring to the plough he had received as a gift from Mr. Christie some years previously. He stated that they had pulled the plough by manpower when their ponies had refused to work, had used the roots of trees for hoes, and had now learned the value of growing grain and vegetables. He was greatly pleased to know that now they would be furnished with better tools and the means to work the land.

Chief Seenum asked for a large tract of land. "For my part, I wish to say that I want a large area to settle all the Cree — the Woods Crees and Plain Crees — who may not now be taken in by the treaties at this time."<sup>15</sup>

Apparently he wanted a general reserve that would accommodate all Indians who might not at this time be willing to choose land and which would be set apart for this purpose. The chief went on to say, "I want an area from the Whitemud River to Dog Rump Creek, extending back as far as the Beaver River and its southern border to be the Saskatchewan River."

The Governor replied that he could not promise such a large tract of land without consultation with his superiors. The area selected was beyond his instructions. "It is not in my power to add clauses to this treaty, no more than you have already been promised, but I will bring your request before the House at Ottawa. However, I know it will not be accepted. As