

in that way been unduly paid would have to refund the overdraft from future annuities - this was met by a remark from Kahmistatim that the Island Lake people having received the money had not prompted his request. At the same time I am inclined to think it had. I further told them that if Thunder seriously thought of consulting a lawyer, that it would only be waste of time and possibly money, as the department would not refuse any just claim. With regard to withholding treaty and other money for repairs, bull fund and heifer account, I told them that in taking this step with them, I was not only doing what the department expected me to do, but that in it I would be supported by any intelligent Indian, if he would only take the trouble to think out the advantage. I told them they had only to look at the fine band of cattle to be found on our reserves, to see the benefit of the small contribution to the bull fund. I also told them that frequently I am told by people passing through, that in no part of the country do they come across finer looking cattle than at Onion Lake, and that was only due to the pure bred bulls sent in and partly paid for by the department. I explained with regard to the heifer account, that it would be only in cases where the number of cattle in the hands of the Indian did not reach ten, that the purchase of an heifer would be demanded.

With regard to paying for repairs, I told them that I got the repairs as a matter of accommodation to them, and that it was the duty of ~~just~~ honourable people to pay their just and lawful debts, when they had the money to pay them with, and that it was only on condition that they would pay when they were able, that I get repairs for them.

The question of having chiefs is an old one with them, but never till now has it been brought in the form of a request at a meeting. I agreed with them that before 1885 there were chiefs, but said that since the trouble then they were thought unnecessary; however, I would submit their request.

As the liquor traffic is increasing here, I took the opportunity of warning them again of the danger they ran in

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