

ward, I demanded that a vote be taken. At this time there was no question that a large majority of the band that were present were against the surrender, and expressed themselves loudly at times to this effect. Mr. Pedley and the council and others interested refused to allow the vote to be taken that night and the meeting was adjourned until ten o'clock the next day at the same place.

At ten o'clock next morning the meeting was again opened by the same parties representing the government present. I was surprised to find that some of those who had supported me strongly against the surrender the day before had been changed during the night. What caused the change, God only knows, I don't. But after a great deal of talk we adjourned to have lunch. I was invited by W. D. Harper, councillor, to have lunch with him at his house. After lunch, sitting in the room with others, Harper slipped a piece of paper into my hand with the following words written in lead pencil by himself to this effect: 'What would you think if you were to be made equal to a councillor,' meaning, of course, that I would get as much land as a councillor if I would agree to the surrender. I stated that I could not possibly agree. Before going into lunch, James Williams, councillor, came up and giving me a nudge whispered, 'Go and see Chief Justice Howell.' I replied, 'No, I would not go near him.' After coming out of Harper's house somebody approached me and told me that Mr. Jackson the member wanted to see me, and I said I did not want to see him, but after a while Mr. Jackson edged his way into the crowd where I was standing and pulling my coat indicating that he wanted me to step out of the crowd. I did so with him, then he said to me: Mr. Asham, you are strongly opposed to the surrender. I said, yes. Then he said, what would you think if we were to make you equal with the council, and stated I will promise you to obtain a patent for the land in about six weeks. To this I replied that I could not possibly agree. I declare that if I had agreed I would have felt that I would be accepting a bribe to desert my friends who were protesting against the surrender.

Now, soon after this, we were in the heat of a hot discussion in the matter regarding the surrender. Mr. Pedley during his speech at this time said I have \$5,000 here, pointing to a satchel at his side. If you agree to this surrender this money will be distributed among you, but if you don't agree to the surrender, I will take my satchel and go home and you won't get a cent. Then we were told the time had come to take a vote. Up to this time fully half of the band present had not been able to get into the building, and did not hear what had taken place. The building being too small to take the vote in, we were asked to go outside. Then Mr. John Semmens, the inspector of Indian agencies, spoke loudly in Cree, saying, 'All you that want \$90 go to this side, indicating where the chief and council were standing, 'the others go to the opposite side.' The crowd separated under great excitement, a great many not knowing what they were doing. After they were separated, some of them moving from one side to the other, not knowing what they were doing. Mr. Semmens and myself started to count the votes

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that were against, but when we got through counting we turned round to count the other side. I was told then that the other side was counted. I did not know who counted the other side, and they claimed they had a majority of seven. I was astonished to hear this, and sized up the two sides and satisfied myself that there were a larger number standing on my side than there was with the chief and council, but I had no opportunity whatever of counting the number that stood with the chief and council. I protested to Mr. Semmens, saying to him that he should not have said that you who want \$90 go on one side, but you should have said you that want to surrender the reserve go to one side, and you that don't want to surrender the reserve go to the other side, then the people would have understood what they were voting for.

I declare that I consider the vote irregular and improper as it was not stated fairly to the people, nor was it fairly counted as it was counted by different parties. When Mr. Pedley read the surrender that he had with him prepared he read it in English, and fast, that even I, who understood English, found it difficult to understand the terms of the surrender. This was not interpreted to the band in their own language, consequently very few, if any, understood the conditions of the surrender. I am satisfied that Mr. Pedley and the others came determined to secure the surrender. The surrender was all prepared without any consultation with the band, and they brought the \$5,000 with them. Without this money on the ground I am satisfied they never could have secured the support they did in favour of the surrender. Immediately after the vote was taken, the treaty was signed, and they commenced paying the money out.

Now, I want to read a sentence from the original affidavit, made by the same man, Asham:

I am a member of the St. Peter's band of Indians. The notices calling a meeting at which the votes surrendering the reserve were taken, were not posted, nor did the Indians know anything about such a meeting until Sunday, the 22nd of September, 1907, just one day prior to the date of such meeting.

Now, these affidavits were brought to the attention of the House a year ago. I think they were brought to the attention of the House two years ago also, but I am not quite sure. The minister has known for two months that this matter was coming up again. Now, the men who know best whether the statements of Asham and others are true or not are Chief Justice Howell and Frank Pedley. Frank Pedley has been in this city, I believe, for the last year. He was in the gallery while this matter was discussed a year ago, and heard these affidavits read. These affidavits have been looking the minister and Frank Pedley in the face for the last twelve months. I think it fair to assume that if either Chief Justice Howell or Frank Pedley were in a position to deny any statement made in these affidavits, we would have had their