

Finding that no negotiations could be carried on except through me, I most willingly placed all my time at "Big Bear's" disposal, daily councils were held in which I explained the nature of the treaty to that chief. On the evening of the 6th instant, he visited me with the Interpreter and remained talking for the greater part of the night.

The interview was a long and tiresome one, but I am pleased to be able to say that it ended in his giving me his hand, and assuring me that he would accept the treaty on the following day.

The result of my interviews with "Big Bear" I communicated to Indian Agent McDonald, who was then at Fort Walsh. On ascertaining the substance of the promises made me by "Big Bear," he prepared an adhesion to treaty six.

On the 8th, "Big Bear" and his followers, accompanied by several treaty chiefs and Indians, came formally to my quarters, and after having spent the afternoon and evening in going over the details of our previous interviews, he signed the treaty.

You are aware that Treaty No. 6, to which "Big Bear" has given his adhesion, was made at Forts Carleton and Pitt, which is, as I have mentioned, the section of country to which he belongs. His present intention is to go to Fort Pitt with his entire followers in the spring and settle upon the reservation allotted him, and I firmly believe he will do so.

Big Bear was the only remaining chief in the North-West Territory who had not made a friendly treaty with the Canadian Government, in the surrendering of his and his people's rights as Indians, by the acceptance of annuities and reserves.

I trust therefore I may be allowed to offer my congratulations, inasmuch as I consider the occurrence an opportune one concluding as it does, and I venture to predict satisfactorily, the final treaty with the last of the many Indian tribes in the Territory.

All possible assistance has invariably been afforded the Indian Department.

During the past year, the work of Indian Agent for the Cypress hills, has been performed by officers of the force. Up to the 15th of August, this work was performed by Superintendent McIlree; from that date up to the present time, Inspector Norman has acted as Indian Agent.

This officer has in accordance with your instructions, just been temporarily transferred to the Indian Department.

Transport was furnished to assist in moving the various bands of Indians, north to their reserves. As I have previously stated, this taxed our limited supply of transport, and consequently I was compelled to move "E" Division, from Fort Walsh to Fort Macleod, en route to Calgary, by hired transport.

The keeping of the Indian Department accounts, and issuing of rations, was done by members of the force.

During the annual payments, an officer and two constables were furnished Indian Agent McDonald, to assist him in making the payments.

You are aware that for several months my own time was taken up in making negotiations.

Superintendent Crozier reports to me as follows on the assistance furnished at Macleod:

"Escorts were furnished for the Indian Annuity payments of the Blood, Black-foot and Piegan reserves, and when required, pay clerks were told off, to assist Indian Department employees.

"I furnished the Indian Agent with transport, consisting of horses and waggons, when he was proceeding on several occasions to the different reserves in this Agency, and men and horses were provided, to drive beef cattle to the Blackfoot crossing.

"In the absence of a surgeon, the hospital steward vaccinated a number of Indians."

In the Battleford District Superintendent Herchmer reports that parties were detailed for Fort Pitt, and the lakes west and north of that place, to pay Indians; also on the Battle River Reserves.