

that was going to live. I have to consider my future grandchildren and the band that I represent.

I further declare that I was so anxious about this matter that the next morning after the meeting at which the chief had made this declaration I went to his house and said to him, calling him grandfather as I always do, you stated in the meeting last night that you would never agree to the surrender of the reserve. I have come to you now to have you repeat that to me, and he said, 'Grandson as he usually called me, 'I did state that at the meeting, and I state it now, that I will never agree to the surrender of the reserve.' I told him then that the reason I was so anxious that I was doubtful of the council but not of him.

After this occurrence myself and the band who were anxious to retain the reserve felt easy that there was no danger of the chief yielding to the influences that were working to secure the surrender, but after some little time I learned that there were private meetings being held in Selkirk unknown to the band, with parties interested in securing the surrender of the reserve. Almost immediately after these private meetings a notice was posted informing the band that a further meeting would be held for the purpose of considering the surrender. This notice was signed by the chief. I declare that this came with great surprise to me and to the band after the public declarations and private promises made by the chief.

The meeting was held in an old schoolhouse on the reserve, too small to hold more than half of those present. Those present representing the government were Chief Justice Howell, Frank Pedley, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, S. J. Jackson, M.P., E. Rayner, of Selkirk, John Semmons, Inspector of Indian agencies, J. O. Lewis, Indian agent, and Dr. Grain.

When the meeting was called to order, Frank Pedley was selected to take the chair, and I was called in from the outside and requested by one of the gentlemen to act as interpreter. This I declined to do stating that I wanted a free hand, but William H. Prince, one of the councillors, acted as interpreter, and interpreted parts of the proceedings.

As soon as Mr. Pedley took the chair, I immediately stepped forward and asked if this was a public meeting. The chairman said certainly. Then, I said, it was free for every one to express his opinion on the subject before the meeting, and Mr. Pedley replied, certainly. Mr. Pedley started to explain the condition of the surrender, informing the meeting that he was sent there by the government to arrange for the surrender of the reserve. Mr. Pedley explained to the meeting what the government was willing to do if we would agree to surrender the reserve. One proposition he made was that the chief would receive 180 acres of land, and each councillor 120, and each Indian would receive only 16 acres of land. I immediately demanded the reason why the chief and council should receive more land than the ordinary Indian. Mr. Pedley replied that they were getting the extra land for their recognition. I then stated the only recognition they had was the coat they wore and the extra money

they receive annually. I also stated that they were not entitled to one acre more land than the ordinary Indian would receive, but as the agreement of surrender was already prepared there was no change made at the time.

I further declare that at least two-thirds of the Indians present did not understand the conditions as stated by Mr. Pedley. I, understanding the English language, did most of the talking against the surrender of the reserve and after talking several hours back and forward 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 awhile 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 have 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,