

The whole proceedings so far had been of a most unpromising nature, and still further delays occurred. The Crees were indeed ready to enter into a treaty, as were some of the Saulteaux; but those of the latter tribe who lived in the Qu'Appelle district systematically endeavored to coerce and intimidate their brethren. At one stage, with this end in view, they placed six fully armed warriors in the conference tent, a move which was checkmated by the summoning of an equal number of militia men. Ultimately the Crees and the Saulteaux, who were separated by hereditary feuds and jealousies, determined to treat with the Commissioners independently of each other; and soon thereafter, a treaty in substantially the same terms as that previously consummated at the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods was signed. Even at the last minute, however, difficulties arose. One of the chiefs refused to sign until he had received the promised financial gratuity. The Lieutenant-Governor held out his hand to him, saying, "Take my hand. It holds the money. If you can trust us forever, you can do so for half an hour. Sign the treaty." The chief thereupon took the Commissioner's hand, and touched the pen. The other chiefs then proceeded in like manner to ratify the treaty.

The seriousness of the occasion was apparently felt by all. Said Che-e-kuk, the Worthy One," to the Lieutenant-Governor: "My ears are open to what you say. Just now the Great Spirit is watching over us. It is good. He who has strength and power is overlooking our doings. I want very much to be good in what we are going to talk about; and our chiefs will take you by the hand."

A few days later the adhesion of certain Saulteaux at Fort Ellice, who had not been present at Qu' Appelle, was secured. The chiefs of that group rejoiced in the picturesque names of Wa-wa-se-ca-po, "The Man Proud of/p.213 Standing Upright," and Ota-ma-koo-ewin, "The Man who Stands on the Earth."

In part, the difficulties of the Commissioners in securing the treaty of Qu' Appelle arose from misunderstandings and heartburnings in connection with