

here and there with little copses.

When the Governor and his party had taken their places, the Indians assembled near the tent of their chiefs, amid singing and dancing, the beating of drums and the discharge of arms. Then they advanced in a great semi-circle towards the Governor's tent. In the foreground a company of their most expert horsemen galloped about in circles, shouting and singing and performing many feats of horsemanship. When the semi-circle had/p.216/ reached about fifty yards from the Governor's tent it halted and attendants came forward with blankets and robes, which were spread upon the ground for the use of the chiefs. When the latter had taken their places, the stem dance began. One of the chiefs advanced before his brethren, carrying a magnificent-ly decorated Indian pipe, which he solemnly raised towards the heavens, turning it, with due ceremony, towards the four points of the compass. The pipe was then given to a singer, who intoning a weird chant, performed a ceremonial dance to the accompaniment of drums and singing of the concourse in the back-ground. This was several times repeated by circles, and the whole body advanced with slow dignity to the tent of Her Majesty's representatives. The Commissioners then arose and met the chiefs, receiving from them the pipe, and repeating the ceremonies which formally offered their friendship to the Commissioners of Canada, and that offer was symbolically accepted. The chiefs and head men then introduced to the Commissioners, and, with picturesque dignity, assumed their places immediately in front of the marque tent to hear the Governor's opening speech.

The following day was Sunday, and no official business was transacted. On Monday the chiefs held a separate Council, and on Tuesday, the first business session of the joint conference took place. "Poundmaker" was the orator chosen to open the proceedings. Addressing the Governor, he said, "We have heard the words that you had to say to us as the representative of the Queen. We