

H⁰

there has never been anything but peace between us. What you do not understand clearly we will do our best to make perfectly clear to you."

In this spirit the whole conference was conducted, and the good-will of the Indians was secured in almost every case.

An incident, pathetic in view of subsequent events, occurred when Big Bear came to visit the Governor on the morning of the 13th. "My friends," said he, "I hears the Governor was come, and I said, 'I shall see him. When I see him I will make a request that he will save me from what I most dread-- the rope put about my neck!" The Governor assured him that while he could not promise immunity to the Indians from the enforcement of the laws of the land, no one need fear them who lived at peace with his brethren. Big Bear remained until the other chiefs had withdrawn, and then, taking the Governor's hand, he said, "I am glad to meet you. I am alone, but if I had known the time I would have been here with all my people. I am not an undutiful child and I do not throw back your hand, but, as my people are not here, I cannot sign. I will tell them what I have heard, and next year I will come."¹ This unfortunate Indian subsequently suffered imprisonment and narrowly escaped capital punishment for his share in the mournful tragedies attendant upon the rising of 1885.

1. Through the influence of Commissioner Irvine, Big Bear, after long negotiations, finally gave his adhesion to Treaty No. 6.