

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: GEORGE CATTLEMAN
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: MONTANA RESERVE
HOBBEMA, ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: MONTANA RESERVE
HOBBEMA, ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: ABRAHAM BURNSTICK
INTERPRETER: RICK YELLOWBIRD
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recounts what two elders told him of Treaty #6 and the promises made under it.

Abraham: I will ask another uncle if he has information pertaining to the treaty and what happened and what transpired before the first payment was made. I doubt if the Indian grabbed for the money but instead took time to think. I will ask him his name first.

George: I am not very well-known and my son carries my name. My first name is George and my last name is the same as my son's.

Abraham: I will ask another question. What is the name of that elder, man or woman where he obtained this information he is about to tell me?

George: There are two old men I heard speak of this. They spoke of land. One was named MUS KWA (Bear) and the other KA PAY NA PIT (He Sits Down) and I heard them speak of what happened. I heard this not too long ago but I can tell in three or four others before them so there isn't much I can pass on to you. The Queen's representative arrived. He was asked in just what manner he proposed to take care of the people. The Indian lived off the earth. The Creator gave us many things to use. You venture outside your door and you see his manifestations immediately. It was good then there was no

sickness. What killed the Indian was old age. Many clung to that but the representative made many promises and they sounded good. He wanted land. The leader asked his people if they were in agreement with the promises. A show of hands indicated so.

The representative promised he would take good care of the people. He promised food enough so he would always have it. The white man was to take care of him. He was asked if he wanted everything. He said only the surface of the land. "You will feed yourself but food will be given to you. The land you choose for yourself, 'for your own needs,'" is what the representative said. "You will make the boundaries of your reserve," he stated, "and you will have it always. The use of the land you have you will use in the manner within those boundaries. The white man will not enter said reserves nor will he encroach on that land you set aside for yourself in any manner. You will take care of it yourself. You will not be poor. You will be given means so that you will not want food. We referred to them as foodhouses. He said, "You will be given medicine to make yourself well as I will take good care of you."

He said, "I come not to deal injustice or to threaten anyone. Our Mother sent me here to say, 'That is how large my breasts are to feed my people.'"

Now that hasn't happened. After the land was taken, we were separated as a people in reserve. We have already been cheated.

He asked of the mountains. He was told you aren't given that and he wasn't. He wasn't given the ducks, moose, elk, deer, buffalo. The Indian was told that they were his to keep.

Not too much time passed, the buffalo left. He wasn't dealt with in a good manner by the white man, so he has left us. There aren't too many of the buffalo with us anymore. He too (buffalo) was dealt with unjustly.

Now I wonder what he's done. As I sit here, I desire that duck but I'm afraid to be fined. That wasn't what was said.

There isn't much I can say.

The Indian leader was asked, "What is your ink?" He said, "The sun is my ink. He makes me grow and life. The grasses and water give me life and sustenance. Today I live." "Until the sun doesn't shine anymore will this treaty be binding." The commissioner said this.

Abraham: Did he make provision for more land allotment?

George: He said that the Indians would never be crowded. Today we see more land taken away. Soon we will lose those rights and the reserves also.

Abraham: What about agricultural implements? Were these issued.

George: That was poor indeed. This place was here when land was cleared, and sod turned by shovels was where the people were taught to grow things. One acre per man that he tilled himself and was taught to plant potatoes, turnips and such. They were given scythes to mow grain for flour. Even then, there was promises held back as food was to have been stored for our use but that too disappeared. An Indian had to work very hard to earn one's food. Those promises have not been upheld to take care of you.

Abraham: Before the treaty, what was the lifestyle?

George: It was good, there were no hardships. The people lived very good.

Abraham: Were there enough animals to sustain him?

George: That is true. He was never hungry.

Abraham: What of mineral wealth below the ground. Such as stone and dirt?

George: They were used to some extent. Some of the earth was used for certain sacred things of which I can't tell you. Before the white man came, if I was at liberty to say, you'd be amazed at the uses of the earth the Indian utilized.

Abraham: What of the Indian agents and commissioners? Do they uphold those initial promises and agreements?

George: Today those agents and servants of the Indian people have all moved to the cities. They were to have remained on the reserve to take care of us and teach us but it isn't so now.

Abraham: I thank you for your cooperation. There will be some () but we benefit from this information.

(End of Interview)

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