

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: SIMON WATCHMAKER
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: KEHIWIN RESERVE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Describes in some detail the scene at Fort Pitt when Treaty #6 was signed.

Simon says hello to all the people. I'd like to tell what I can remember.

I was so much interested listening to the old people of what happened during the signing of the treaty.

I don't talk English, just a little bit.

When treaty was signed, there used to be a man living by the name of Antoine Jibeau. This was the time the signing took place at Little House (Fort Pitt). I used to hear this old man tell these stories. At the time there was another man by the name of Sasakawapisk (Striped Gopher) and I heard him many a times telling of the treaty. He used to be from the north, he was a Bush Cree Indian. This old man was smart, he was the only one that had smart ideas. He had a smart talk with the commissioners, for the whole tribe and the agreement. As he stood up talking to the commissioner, the tribe pushed him away.

You people now today want to know the story. As this Sasakawapisk stood up pointing to the commissioner said, "You the Queen, I'll have to call you this way because you brought the Queen's message." And he also said, "You will never pay

the price of our land." The people here, the Prairie Crees, all cried. The people said to push him away. They said he was going to talk for nothing. They put this old man away. Later he got up again. "At least I'm going to say this to you. Now you say you are willing to take care of me and my people, but if we don't make this agreement to satisfaction, there will not be too long in future, there will be bloodshed. As you see you landed down last on this land. From there on, no matter how much you pay there will never be enough to pay for my land."

The commissioner replied, "Sasakawapisk, your land is too big to pay you enough."

The old man said, "You already backing out. What about the future if I talk about money? Then you will be refusing to pay me." The old man said, "I'm going to say this to you. This agreement we are going to sign is going to last forever, as long as the sun shines and the rivers flow."

After that he called all the leaders of the tribe and he made them sign the treaty. He was the man that talked something worthwhile.

Today we still have treaty. This old man was not afraid to talk to the commissioner. He meant what he said. The other people got scared.

Today it is still the same. Some people can't talk and others can't even speak for themselves. I know that.

I don't want to tell too much, but this old man that listened to the commissioner told his story the way the treaty was signed. That's what I learned from this old man.

There was another man at the time of the signing. His name was Moskayo. He was a big man and had a big long braid behind his head. He too stood up and told the commissioners, "Can you send us these Kikawhakesuk (don't know the English word for this animal) away, because they are only good for stealing from others."

As the old man said, these people are going to make sure our children suffer in the future because they were sent here first to tame our children and also to help us to be beat for our land. (Missionaries)

That's all I can tell you.

These two old people I mentioned were present and helping with the signing of the treaty. From there on this story was foretold till now. I could tell you more but this one is the true story.

Well friends, that is all I can tell you.

Louis asked him if they bought the animals, migratory birds, fish and water.

Simon's answer was no, they never bought any of these. You asked me of these things. When the treaty signed the Long Chief told the tribe, "I'm only buying three things, timber, hay and land."

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