

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: JOHN BROWN
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: LOUIS BULL RESERVE
HOBBEMA, ALBERTA
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ALBERTA
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Treaty #6, taking of and interpretation of.

This is my father's story. There are some things that he used to tell that I don't remember too well. Really, I never made the practice of telling of the early treaties.

I shall tell as much as I can remember and no further. The main items I am going to tell about is about how the white man treats the Indians.

A meeting was held at Edmonton, at some location between the high level bridge and low level bridge on the north side of the Saskatchewan River.

Michell Callihoo and Pagan Kachistawaiskum were negotiating with the governor. These were the Queen's representatives. They were sent here to make an agreement on the land. Michell Callihoo was the main person that the governor was dealing with because he was the smartest one. The other two men didn't do too much in regard to the dealings.

There were four men that were acting as interpreters:

1. Donnel
2. Big Old Man
3. Calder - he had a son who lived at Hobbema who was crippled.
4. White - late father of our former interpreter, John White.

These four men were especially appointed to act as interpreters. They took turns each time that the Lieutenant Governor told them to do so, as the proceedings went on.

There was some mention made about some future conflict. This is what Michell Callihoo was told. "You claim yourself to be a chief, but you will no longer be one if you keep on doing things that are unjust. You see these people sitting around you in a circle. They will collect names and they will forward these names written on a paper directly to Ottawa. From there you will be instructed to give up your position as a chief." At this very moment when the actual discussion took place, Michell Callihoo was told that the whole country was to be bought by the white man only to the depth of one foot and no further. He was told that anything further down is yours. "If anything is found below the depth of one foot it is to be yours. It is only the dirt that is to be bought from you by the white man. The white man is not going to buy anything that flies up in the air nor any wild animal. All of these things are to be yours for your own use." This is what was said. I have already said that there are many things that I don't remember that my father used to tell. I just wish that the

gathering of the information was done long before this, when the older people were still alive, like my father when he was alive. He could have had much to tell of what took place at the time when the proceedings were still in progress because he was there as an observer.

He sat there and listened. He used to say he was about ten feet away from the main spokesmen. Now, we are caught on a spot today. I'm just wondering whether or not you people who are gathering this information will be successful. Personally, I have my doubts. Any legislation that the government comes up with time after time, it hates to have it thrown out. But on the other hand, anything that the native people come up with in regard to early dealings, the government usually disregards them or throws them out.

As the discussion went on, the native people that took part in the proceedings were told that any kind of wild animals was to be theirs for all times. This is what Michell was told, "If a fire started up in the mountains would you be willing to go there to fight it?" He didn't answer so then he was told, "Someday I will give you guns." It was right then that he jumped up saying, "If you want to do this to me you might just as well blot off what's already written in the documents or else I will clean your body right out. You see, these people sitting all around us." And so in regard to the mention made about the guns was scratched off.

The boss from the Hudson's Bay spoke up and said, "I have looked after the native people for four hundred and fifty years in the past. I am now going to turn these people to the white man and see what treatment he will be able to give them. I am

going to put up a stake into the ground across the river and after seventy years from this time on, if the white man fails to give these people proper treatment I shall take them back. As he was standing there, the south shore of the Saskatchewan River shall become my boundary line. Any land south of it is to be mine. Someday in the future you shall have your own land. No white man will ever be allowed to make money on it, this will be your own land and they will not be allowed to make money on it." The Hudson's Bay boss stood up again and said that he wanted some compensation in some way after having cared for the people for four hundred and fifty years. "In order for me to do this, I am going to take certain portions of land throughout the country." This is what the Hudson's Bay boss said. "You the members of the Samson Band, are involved in this deal. And so, any creature that lives under the water is to be yours for all time. The government is not going to buy any kind of wild animal or any kind of wood from you. It is

only the land that is to be bought from you." This is what they were told. They were told that these were the promises. They were told further about the sun and earth, the big wide river and rocks. The spokesman pointed downstream and said to the people, "Do you see that big rock that everyone hates? These are the four things that the Queen is to use for her pencil. This would refer very much in line with the promises. As long as these four things exist and so will the promises remain." Now there again the Hudson's Bay boss got on his feet and said, "The only way that you people will know that I have taken up land at different places is the money will vary in different shapes and color. As long as these four things that were included in the proceedings exist, so will the promises."

Summary of the rest - You will be given an agency office, an Indian agent, and police protection. If any white man interferes with you in any way, these two people will be there to protect you. They will be like your own children. They will be put there for your own cause.

I've heard a rumour from someone that the Indian boys of today are to become subject for military draft. I cannot see why the government is trying to force these boys to a place where they are to do the things that are wrong.

Towards the end he refers to the younger generation. He doesn't agree with the young people running as leaders for the reserve.

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
TREATY #6				
-interpretation of	IH-165	JOHN BROWN	24	2-4
TREATY #6				
-taking of	IH-165	JOHN BROWN	24	2-4

PROPER NAME INDEX

PROPER NAME	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
CALLIHOO, MICHELL	IH-164	JOHN BROWN	24	2