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MANY QUESTIONS The government officials somehow could not find it within themselves to spend a whole day with us. They arrived after lunch and were sorry they did. Too many embarrassing questions were asked for which they had not one valid answer (in my estimation).

25 LOCALS The Half-Breed people came from such places as Gardo, Green Lake (Jans Bay & Cole Bay), Green Lake, Rosoval, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Regina, Leacock, Punnichy, Meadow Lake and various other centres. In all 25 locals were represented.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS Those in attendance from the Saskatchewan government were Liberal M.L.A. Mr. Coupland, Deputy Minister of the Indian & Metis Branch James Sinclair, Mr. Mitchell from the Dept of the Secretary of State, Mr. Westcott, Department of Welfare, Ted Rowman, NDP (Shellbrook) and two members from D.N.E.E.

IMPORTANT MINISTERS ABSENT It is interesting to note that after all his promises Mr. Thatcher was unable to attend. Also missing were Cy MacDonald, Minister of Welfare, Clarence Estey, Municipal Affairs and Indian and Metis Department Minister (either department in itself is enough for any man), and Agriculture Minister MacFarland. These men sent their underlings in another diversionary attempt to mislead the Half-Breeds. If anything is ever brought up again to the Ministers they can say they weren't there or else they had never heard about it.

AFTERNOON SESSION Mayor Jackson of Meadow Lake took care of the social amenities and it was decided by consensus that Father Owens of Saskatoon would chair the afternoon session.

MR. MITCHELL Mr. Mitchell stated that it was through his department that funds were made available for the meeting. He also stated that he would get in touch with the Provincial government about supplying funds for more area meetings because it is the Provincial government's responsibility. This is a statement I would like to contest at length sometime.

MR. WESTCOTT Mr. Westcott of the Welfare Department informed us that Cy MacDonald was attending an international conference, failing to mention where.

MR. SINCLAIR Indian & Metis Department, Deputy Minister James Sinclair apologized for the poor attendance of the Ministers in his Department.

MR. ROWMAN Ted Rowman, filling in for Mr. Blakney (NDP leader) stated that "the day when minority groups must come begging for their rights is over". It would be interesting to learn where Mr. Rowman has been hiding his head. There should never, in the first place, have been a day when people had to beg for what was rightfully theirs.

MR. COUPLAND Mr. Coupland began voicing empty platitudes immediately by saying that "there is no better place in Canada than Northern Saskatchewan, where there will be the greatest development in the next 6 months to 2 years". What sort of development, we might ask? He said that he disliked the criticism heard at the morning session and asked the people to look at more positive features such as roads and health improvements. Mr. Coupland stated that the government had priorities, but failed to mention which or what they were. I would think that the socio-economic conditions of the Half-Breed people would be a major priority. Employment wise Mr. Coupland 'hopes' that in the next two or three years there will be jobs for anyone who wants to work. It was interesting to hear him say that the Rehabilitation Programs were meant to help Native people get work in urban centres. I wonder if Mr. Coupland has read the papers lately or looked at Welfare statistics. There are just as many poor whites out of jobs as there are Half-Breeds. Somehow his logic does not register as something I would tend to follow or believe. Mr. Coupland also stated that there 'may' be a post-cutting operation set up in La Loche which would employ 60 to 70 men. All in all Mr. Coupland said nothing of major importance.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES At this time I was privileged to point out to the people some of the priorities of both the

Provincial and Federal governments. Some of these are the Potash Mines and the highways to and from the Peip Hill at Prince Albert, and all these were built and subsidized by Canadian funds but operated and profited from by Americans. Also the Federal government sent millions of dollars worth of medical supplies and food to Salfra when malnutrition exists here in the Canadian North. This spring when Saskatchewan farmers were willing to give us some of 'their' wheat the Federal government would not give us a permit to grind the wheat. There was some stupid excuse about disrupting wheat prices. If I remember correctly the farmers at no time mentioned money.

EXPRESSION CONCERN Throughout the afternoon the people became quite vocal and expressed much concern on many matters involving Half-Breed life in Canada.



POLLUTION Pierre Gariere stated that pollution is the White man's doing and in order to make a living we have to get rid of the people who are making a profit off us.

PURPOSE OF GRANT Father Owens at that time said that the government grant is for the purpose of bringing up grievances to the government officials. This was in reply to the complaints that Mr. Coupland had made.

GOVERNMENT IGNORES PROBLEMS President of the Metis Society, Jim Sinclair, reinforced this and said that any money given to the Native people had strings attached. The government, not wanting criticism, withholds grants in order to keep the Native people from having the chance to air their grievances. He inquired as to how much of the 10 million dollars for the government work training project would be spent on the Native people. Since the rebellion of 1885 nothing has been done for the Half-Breeds. Countries that have been enemies and defeated in wars were brought to economic stability again through Canadian and Allied finance. The Half-Breeds who are an integral part of Canada are ignored. What are the duties of the Indian and Metis Department - jobs, housing, health, education, welfare? Mr. Sinclair, our president, then stated that if housing was not provided or some provisions made, we would pitch our tents on the lawn of Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

NO HALF-BREED SUPERVISORS Kathleen Morris of Green Lake wondered why, in over twenty years of existence, the central farm there has not had a Half-Breed supervisor. She also brought up the racist attitude toward workers on the Green Lake farm.

HALF-BREEDS CONCERNED Our president, Jim, said that it takes seven years to get a Ph.D. from a University, but it takes our men twenty years to get a certificate to clean barns. He stated that most government farms had better facilities for the animals than the workers had. He said that we (the Half-Breeds) are concerned about human beings. We have given everything, our land, lives and livelihood and now we want something back. The reason he says that our men are still labourers on the farm is because the government officials say that we are not responsible people.

NATIVE SOCIAL WORKERS One man from La Loche was especially concerned about Welfare and Field workers. He suggested that Welfare and Social workers should be of Native ancestry because they better understand the problems that face our people.

LA LOCHE Mrs. Nancy Delorme of La Loche said that the people wanted a housing project in order that the people could build their own homes. The people of La Loche sent 13 letters to the government and got 8 replies but not one thing in them about such help as jobs, school buses, nets, motors for boats, housing, education, welfare etc. There are no jobs in La Loche and able-bodied men and aged mothers cannot get welfare. She inquired as to why the people of La Loche couldn't have a road built to a new housing lake in order that the people could fish. The people of La Loche had requested 2 million dollars from the government so that they could do something for themselves but never got it.

NATIVE SOCIAL WORKERS IN MEADOW LAKE Mr. F. C. Chetty, B.A., LL.B. of Melville, who represents the Metis Society in legal matters asked why it was not possible to have Metis people as social workers in Meadow Lake so contact would be closer between the people. To this question, the gov't people had no real concrete answers.

DISCRIMINATION At this point some people accused the Indian & Metis Dep't of discriminatory action in fulfilling their duties and names were named. Nothing of a serious nature evolved from this because as per usual, they were evasive, and besides, one can't prove such when it's one person's word against another's.

COMMUNICATIONS IN NORTH The Northern Half-Breeds were very concerned about communications because the radio telephones are very unreliable and hard to work. They also mentioned that the fishing camps had silted roads whereas the roads to La Loche, Beauval and Buffalo Narrows are dusty and unreliable. As a result of bad roads a baby died this spring because the taxidriver could not get out so the child could receive medical attention.

CANOE LAKE Speaking for the people of Jans Bay and Cole Bay in Canoe Lake, Alexander Yew made some pertinent requests. Apparently the hay fields at Canoe Lake are flooded and the people need help in order to feed their cattle through the winter. They also made requests for field workers and social workers to come to Canoe Lake. The people wanted help economically in such areas as tourist camps and a fish cannery.

COMPLAINTS FROM GREEN LAKE One of the last locals to be heard from was Green Lake with many complaints and requests such as: 1) Vandercropping at the switchboard, 2) Cheques were late and the farm workers were forced to deal with the Hudson's Bay Co. 3) Harassment in the community 4) Cheques held back at the Post Office which is situated in the Hudson's Bay store 5) Their own town council 6) Interpreters and workers in the courts 7) Free housing permits 8) Upgrading school 9) Free hospitalization for the old-timers because they can't afford to pay it 10) The sawmill to be turned over to the people of Green Lake 11) Wood to improve homes and more.

PEOPLE BAND TOGETHER If the sincerity of the Half-Breeds is ever questioned the Canoe Lake people are a sterling example. On the way to the meeting they found that a bridge had been washed out so they "banded together" and rearranged the boards so that a few people at least could drive over and be present at the meeting.

GOVERNMENT PEOPLE DEPRESSIVE Throughout the afternoon requests were made and grievances stated. The government officials had little to say although some made futile attempts at defusing their actions toward the Half-Breed people. Others gave the age-old shrug and equally silly "I didn't know that" type of answer.

PEOPLE EXPRESSED The people came well prepared and showed the officials and lesser-officials that the Half-Breed people can and will talk. For too many years we have sat idly by and taken the hand-outs of the government. We, along with our Indian brothers and sisters, gave up a beautiful, beautiful country to empty, vague promises. We once were a free and happy people roaming this land with no need for empty promises but we trusted too quickly the wrong people.

"THE TIME HAS COME" The time has returned when the blood flows thick and fast in the Half-Breed's veins. There is a light in our eyes and our minds are quick. No more empty, vague promises; no more evading us with cheap handouts.

A NEW STORY We will write a new song for our people, and a new and illustrious page in Canada's history and in the world's history. The Half-Breeds have come home again.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comments:

I first saw a copy of THE NEW BREED last week at the exhibition, when an older man handed me one to read. Until that time, I never knew that the Metis Society had a newspaper. I think it's wonderful. It's about high time that the Metis and Indians of our country voiced their opinions, and let everyone know just how hard it really is for them to make a go of it. I read the paper, and passed it on to all of my friends so that they could see the truth of it too. Your poem, "17 Years Old, Going on 60 . . ." had to be one of the saddest but truest things I have ever read.

We look down on the U.S.A. for the way they treat their Negroes, but do the Whites treat the Canadian Indian any better? No! We don't have an Indian problem in Canada, we have a white problem, and a bad one.

I am not a white person looking at it from the outside; I myself an one-quarter Cree Indian, and darn proud of my heritage. The only advantage I have over most Indians is that I was adopted by a white family when I was a child, and they have to be the most wonderful people I know. They never treated me any different from my sister, who was their own child. I got a good education, and now have a very good job. When people ask me what nationality I am, I tell them, and I lose a lot of people who could have been good friends, had I not been Indian. But since they take that attitude, who needs them for friends?

We will never get anywhere by saying that I am going to help you because you are an Indian, but we are going to help you because you are a human being, and that is the first and greatest step towards brotherhood that we have to achieve. I feel that we have to help people because they are needy people, and to help with the color of their skin; they're all the same under the surface.

Yours truly,

A person who hopes world-wide peace will be reached.

Dear Sir,

The Native Alcohol Council is registered under Societies Act No. 1060.

N.A.C. is composed of an eight member board of Native People. The names as follows are four Treaty Indians and four Metis.

Chairman - Walter Stonechild
Co-Chairman - Arnold Dufour
Secretary - Fred Starr
Treasurer - Walter Gordon
Finance - Walter Dieter, George Kewatin, Frank Richard
Walter Gordon.

Objects of Society

(a) To develop a counselling and treatment service in the field of alcoholism to be made available primarily to people of Indian ancestry.

(b) To develop informational and educational programs and to encourage research into problems relating to alcoholism.

I would like to thank THE NEW BREED and personnel for allowing the Native Alcohol Council this part in your Newsletter.

Arnold le Dufour
Director
Native Alcohol Council

Send "Letters to the Editor" c/o Fr. J. Owens, 1111 Rose St., Regina, and we will print them next month.

Some Complaints about the D.N.R.

BY NAPOLEON JOHNSON

ERNIE PAYNTOR I have known Ernie Payntor, Wildlife Director in Regina, since 1946. I have never known him to hold meetings in this area but instead he visited and spoke with the people and in this way finds out first hand what he wants to know.

MOOSE HUNTING NOT ALLOWED At that time, in 1946, people in this area were not allowed to hunt or kill moose but they did so anyway, leaving most of the carcass to waste, taking only what they needed presently for fear of getting caught.

BENEFICIAL LAWS Mr. Payntor then decided that people in this area should be allowed five moose per large family for their livelihood, for eight months in a year, leaving the remaining four months to allow the young moose to mature. Since that time moose has been plentiful. These laws have proved to be beneficial to the North and to the livelihood of the people.

MEETINGS It appears now that the Dept. of Nat. Resources held meetings and invite people to attend who decide things to be done and which have not proved to be helpful to this area.

MIK SAATCHERS I worked for the D.N.R. as a Fur Patrolman and a Field Supervisor for the west side of the province. I would like to voice my opinion of the seven Mink Saatchers we have in this area, most of whom are of European descent with money and a good education, who hire Natives to fish for food for their mink and pay only \$4.00 per day to the Native fishermen and who are eventually going to fish out the lakes.

HAYN 700 NATIVES A D.N.R. official stated "No, we cannot take back the licenses which were issued to the Mink Saatchers". I told him this won't hurt the Mink Saatchers, but it will starve 700 Natives who were born on the shores of these lakes. These Native people have no schooling or education; the only livelihood they have is fishing and trapping. The seven Mink Saatchers have 60,500 mink. Each mink eats approx. 2/3 lb. of fish a day. The commercial fishing limit is almost two million pounds and besides that, there is domestic fishing for a population of over 2,000.

WORKER EMPLOYED A week ago I met a man who had worked for a Mink Saatcher for over 18 years and all he had to show for 18 years work was a bed and a tent. This man had nothing to feed his children and had to ask for Welfare. The Mink Saatcher he was working for has about \$50,000 which the worker helped him earn. If Natives in the North had more education this sort of thing would not happen to us.

NATIVES CHEATED In 1939, I remember when traders used to buy tobacco at .08¢ a pkg. and 100 lbs. of flour at \$2.50 in Meadow Lake and which they brought to Big Sandy north of Patawasak to sell to the Natives. They sold the tobacco for \$2.00 per pkg. and the flour at \$40.00 for 100 lbs. They bought the furs for \$4.00 for a wild mink pelt, 15 muskrats for \$1.00 and in turn they received an average of \$32.00 for the mink pelts from New York fur sales. At that time people had to paddle by canoe to Cree Lake from Ile-a-la-Croix and it took them 4 weeks to go to their trap lines.

FUR MARKETING SERVICE The Fur Marketing Service then came into being in Regina to enable people to get fair dealings.

NEW LAWS Two D.N.R. officials then made laws to put a fur block around each community and it appears that people have lost interest in trapping due to being tied down to a block and being unable to trap where they prefer.

NATIVES SUPPRESSED The younger generation do not know anything about the old way of life regarding fishing and trapping on account of these fur blocks. From what I have outlined above, it is easy to see that the Natives have always been exploited and suppressed. I'm embarrassed when I turn my radio on as it seems there is always some news item about Indians and their poor way of life.

VERGE OF STARVATION

It was said last winter on the radio and in the newspapers that the Natives in our area were on the verge of starvation. This is true. If it weren't for social aid about half the people would starve. Even if a person has a good outfit for fishing or trapping, this is no longer sufficient to make a living on account of the fur blocks. Also the lakes are fished out due to D.N.R. laws. The D.N.R. conservationists can do only what they are instructed to do from their head offices in the South.

WORK WITH NATIVES

It would appear that the bosses in Regina do not fully realize what the true situation is in the North and should make a better effort to recognize the needs, and work closer for better understanding with the Native population. I went to Ottawa as a representative with Dr. Howard Adams in an effort to gain a better understanding of our government.

NO MOOSE

We like the field conservationists, but there should be more done than pouring water on forest fires by their department.



HOW COME THERE'S FISH FOR THE MIK TO EAT BUT NONE FOR US?

Letter from a Racist Schoolteacher

The following is a letter which was handed on to us. It was sent home to a mother by a school teacher in one of our Native communities. The names have been changed in the hope of protecting the children a little bit. If the teach or reads this she will no doubt recognize it; we hope she also recognizes her own white racism.

Dear Mrs. Breed,

As usual Sharon was not finished with her work so I let her take books home - also a pencil. Today she has nothing done and claims Carol took her pencil away. Carol says she is lying and lost it. I don't know who is lying - but when I send work home I expect it to be done. I'll be thankful if you can find out which of the girls is the liar. Also that is a school pencil and must be returned. Please pay more attention to what the children are doing with school property at your home.

Thank you
Mrs. I. M. Teacher

The Metis Society is a native organization of Metis and non-treaty Indians. You can join by signing up with your local organization; or send your name, address, and \$1.00 for membership. NEW BREED subscription rates: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for six months.

Write for membership and subscription to: The Metis Society
1111 ROSE STREET, Regina, Sask.