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In making Treaty with the Indians along the McKenzie river, it will be necessary to treat with the half-breeds. This problem is a little different from the one which confronted the Commissioners at the time Treaty 8 was made. At present I do not think that there are more than fifteen families who will have to be dealt with by scrip, and these are old and respected families in that country, who could not be expected to enter into Treaty. I might even say that some of these families are historic. The names include the following: Cammella, Gaudet, Desurieu, Rafferty, McDonald, Smith and Rirth. These families and possibly some others will have to be given scrip.

I do not propose to extend the difficulties and the abuses which were practiced when scrip was given out before. In Treaty 8, two kinds of scrip were given, first land, second money. It is in the former that most of the abuses occurred. I would now propose to treat with the families enumerated above, in money scrip only, as there is no land in that part of the country, which is valuable for immediate settlement for agricultural purposes. I estimate that there will be fifteen families to be dealt with in this manner. The other half-breeds in this country are mostly living the Indian mode of life, and I feel confident that I shall be able to take them into Treaty, as it is in their own interests to have this done. I do not think that there will be more than 75 families of half-breeds whom it will be necessary to take into Treaty. It is a curious thing that the half-breeds in this country are either whites or Indians and that there is no medium course such as we find in other provinces. I shall, of course, use my best efforts to induce all people of Indian blood living the Indian mode of life to accept Treaty.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 1012, file 336,877)

I would like to point out, in conclusion, the very, very small number of half-breeds in this district who will insist on scrip, and also the fact that there will be no abuses such as followed previous treaties, if my recommendation to pay money scrip only is adopted. There are some half-breeds in that country who have already been dealt with as such in other parts of the country. As I know all these people intimately, it will not be a difficult matter to segregate these from the ones to whom scrip is due.

HA Coward

HR