

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: FREDERICK PRINCE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: GIFT LAKE COLONY
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: GIFT LAKE COLONY
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW: NOVEMBER 25, 1972
INTERVIEWER: DAN MCLEON
LAWRENCE COURTORIELLE
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-317
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 30
PAGES: 6
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Interviewee's father, from Peguis Reserve in Manitoba, was interpreter at Treaty #8.
- Treaty promises.
- Sale of reserve lands.

Inter: The speaker is Frederick Prince who was at one time a treaty Indian but who was expelled from the reserve. He is 78 years old and it is November 25.

Mr. Prince: That man Wa-pee-no or Giroux I don't know if he was a leader or not but Mustus was appointed chief at the time when they signed the treaty. Key no say oo (Fish) was the councillor. And Noo-ho-way-sis also. This is my father's story that I tell you.

The people were promised \$50.00 a head by the agent, Mr. Laird and Mr. Conrad and Dr. West. The people decided with Mustus as their chief to sign the treaty. It was never positive of the \$50.00 promise to the halfbreeds. They were allowed fifty dollar land scrip, that's all. They were also given free grant and a second homestead later. They were all sold out and moved west. Dave Chalifoux and Frank Alcrow's fathers received a small reserve near Buffalo Bay. Old Dave's father let that reserve go and got another near Grouard School. Pat Lalonde's father was given that reserve near Driftpile and he let it go. When his parents died he left.

He didn't get anything out of it. He never benefitted when

he cancelled his right to that little reserve. They took Sucker Creek. I don't think it was bigger than 2 townships.

The people were told they had title to the land as long as the sun rises east and sets west.

The people received \$25.00 a head and the other \$25.00 was put into a fund for the people. It belonged to those the treaty answered for. The people came from all over. It took 3 weeks to a month to get here. It was my father Albert who was the translator. My father had seen treaty signings before. He was from Peguis Reserve near Winnipeg.

He advised the people to take the treaty promises as it was their last chance. In the future it would help them. He told them as long as they were getting land, they may as well take the whole lake for they couldn't be refused. They only managed to obtain a small reserve as it worked out. When they did make applications they were refused.

Now that money (\$25.00/head), where did it go? What little capital money go? All they're getting now is interest. What little bit they got they've spent on houses. They are hindered from using that capital money. It's not enough. There is no land being cleared. They are given assistance in food. That is the only place they might be getting help.

But still, I don't believe that money could be all spent. Ever since that time, there must be quite a bit of money that has accumulated. It's their own treaty money. My father saw this as he was a translator at that treaty signing.

Now, these young people don't know anything. It was Frank Cardinal who took an interest in this issue and a little of

that money has come forward. But it is still only the interest money and not the capital money. That capital money is still there.

Inter: They were promised \$50.00, give \$25.00 and \$25.00 went into a fund?

Mr. Prince: Yes, that's true. Each person was promised, age no barrier. They were given cattle not to be sold. I remember that as a child my father bought a cow for \$15.00 but it is not so today. Gradually the cattle multiplied. They were transferred to as I.D. cattle and wore that brand. There was over 2,000 cows here. Where did they go, no one knows. Some of the cattle may have been sold around 1918 but where the money went no one knows. A carload of steers was sent out of here and no one received any money for them. Somebody got it but it must have been the government. The people were apathetic! The agent would say "no" once, and the leaders didn't say anything more. The agent gave the directions and they were followed. I saw this as a young man. That agent was responsible for the disappearance of cattle in 1918.

Charlie Anderson is one who'll be able to tell you many things.

Inter: Is he still alive?

Mr. Prince: He is, and he's either in () or in Edmonton. He's somewhere.

And this, what do you call it, () Reserve, I've heard their money has all been spent, which will never happen for they were never given access to their money. I don't know how many thousands of dollars they sold for but Albert told me that the agent said there was no money left. What did that agent do with that money that he sent away, is it in the bank? There must have been an increase in it, I can't see where they have spent money. This land has always been naturally clear.

In 1910, as a young man I stayed over in Horse Lake.

Inter: Was it a reserve already?

Mr. Prince: Not yet. There was people living there. Shortly after that, the boundaries came into effect.

I can't believe that Indian people can spend their money. I have heard of a boy from Fairview, Alec Letendre. He told us there was money in the bank, he belongs to that bank. One of his sisters is here at High Prairie. He has two sisters here who are still alive. Their name was Bellerose but he was taken away at a young age. In 1918 when people died the agent brought them here. Those three little girls. All of them got married in Driftpile.

Inter: That man's name is Letendre?

Mr. Prince: Yes, that's his name. When these girls were baptized, Joe Bellerose held them so they kept his name. They weren't supposed to be Letendre's.

Inter: That man is not a Bellerose.

Mr. Prince: No, he was Letendre. He is a crippled guy, he limps a little. Alec is his name. Last summer he came to visit his sisters. He was 15 or 16 when he beat the epidemic in 1918. Those three girls were brought here also, some from the Wolfe family and Thom S. They're in Fort St. John and those are in Fairview.

I don't believe their money could have been spent. Maybe they got hooked someplace. I told Alfred about it but did he say anything about it?

Inter: He came to me to find out about the oil rights on that reserve. So I went to the Regional office in Edmonton. A letter was mailed and I received a reply. The rights had been sold by a Pierre Low (not sure about last name), a chief, and when he sold them that reserve there was 76 people alive on that reserve. The way it read, it went up for auction for \$286,000.00. That's how much it was sold for. There was another small reserve by Dunvegan (282 acres) that was also sold.

Mr. Prince: That's Green Island.

Inter: Yes, it is. That was sold for \$8.00 an acre. It is written that the mineral rights were given up also. On the northwest corner consisting of 250 acres, they held that. Near Hay Lake.

Mr. Prince: Yes, near Hay Lake.

Inter: After all the signatures and crosses were signed, then in 1844, then they sold the Hay Lakes. Pierre Joachim's name, Desjarlais, Johnny Napesis and also Alfred's name is on there. That end there. I obtained those papers but there was too many pictures taken of these papers and the writing is very small and I can't read them. It reads the mineral rights were given up and I don't know about that. I gave them to the Indian Association to enlarge them.

Mr. Prince: They were fools, they shouldn't have let them go. That was the main article if they did indeed give up that rights. That can still be fought. No matter if a person signs his name, if he does not want to, that signature is void.

For example, if I have land and I sell it with my wife's signature, it doesn't count if it doesn't have my name on it. I can turn around and take back that land. No matter if money's invested, I don't have to give it back, I don't have to give him one cent. 'Cause I know for a fact, one of my sons is a crooked man but you have to be. But in the meantime if you sell your land, why is the woman signing her name? His wife did, one day the sheriff told him, I was there just her. Someone bought a lot for \$250.00. As it worked out, he got \$250.00 for nothing. That ain't crooked. It just happened. As I see it if a man looks ahead, he's bound to do things in his favor. I don't hide the fact he's crooked. I have nothing but I am honest. I can go to the bank, borrow a \$100.00, but I pay it back as soon as I get the money.

All I got is this cabin that I bought, the land ain't mine. It belongs to the government. I'm just living here, I am not independent as I am old. I use to fish and I hunt. To a certain extent a man is independent but not totally. A man my age has to spend most of his time indoors but I manage.

There isn't much more I can say. I'll only told you what I know.

Inter: Your father saw the treaty payments down east?

Mr. Prince: In Winnipeg.

Inter: Are they the same?

Mr. Prince: The same.

Inter: Hunting?

Mr. Prince: Yes.

Inter: Medical?

Mr. Prince: Yes.

Inter: Education?

Mr. Prince: Yes.

And if you grew crops, you were given assistance. Or you were given cattle.

As long as the sun shone and rivers flowed. The government has cheated the people.

Another thing, now, the halfbreed who took the scrip, my children got no benefit, not a thing. If I bought a cow from you, I bought the calf as well. The government can't deny they did not do this. This is my opinion, the people involved were

cheated. My children never benefitted. I benefitted but that's all. I took a woman from Fairview, Solomon Thomas's sister and now she is dead. She never left the reserve. I was given permission by Mr. Laird to live on the reserve but this is where I ended up.

(End of Interview)

PROPER NAME INDEX

PROPER NAME	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
KEY NO SAY OO	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2
MUSTUS	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
AGRICULTURE				
-cattle-raising	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	3
INDIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF				
-Indian agents	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	3
RESERVES				
-sale of	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	3
SCRIP				
-land	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2
TREATY #8				
-interpretation of	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2,3,5
TREATY #8				
-land allocation	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2
TREATY #8				
-taking of	IH-317	FRED PRINCE	30	2