



A. G. SHUTE
CHIEF CONSTABLE



POLICE DEPARTMENT

2007
547

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA



EDMONTON, ALBERTA May 19th, 1937.

The City Commissioners,
Edmonton, Alta.

Attention Commissioner Gibb.

Sirs:-

Re: Indians Camped on 140th Street.

Confirming telephone conversations of May 10th and May 18th, I would advise that in the first instance Inspector Graham and Constable Dunlop went to 140th Street, and Mr. Graham took the names of Indians who are camped in the district.

Yesterday Staff Inspector Blackwood and Constable McMurray visited the district and interviewed the half-breeds and Indians camped there, and reports from these officers are enclosed herewith.

This morning I, personally, went up with Mr. Graham and about two blocks north of Stony Plain Road on 140th Street we saw one or two shacks and a couple of tents which are occupied by half-breed families who have been living there during the last winter. These people are not Treaty Indians and have no money and no place to go. One old lady, a Mrs. M. G., who is 79 years of age, receives only about \$8.00 per month from the Civic Relief Department, and that is all she has to live on. It would appear that she should be entitled to the Old Age Pension, as, although an Indian by birth, she is not entitled to Treaty money, her people having surrendered their Treaty rights when she was only a child.

There are several tents near the old dump at 112th Avenue and 142nd Street which are occupied by half-breed families, some of whom are in a pitiable condition. One family named P., with six children, the oldest 14 years of age, are living in a tent, on a soldier's pension of \$15.00 perm month. The Mother is ill, and is lying on the ground. Another family named S. with four or five children all under the age of fifteen, came in from



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- 2 -

Winterburn two months ago, having been ordered off the Reserve. S [redacted] stated that he is a half-breed, and his wife an Indian who had surrendered her treaty privileges. This woman was recently discharged from the Royal Alexandra Hospital and is still very sick. They have a three months' old baby, and have no way to keep milk for it. Yesterday they received \$2.00 from the Government Relief Department, and were ordered to leave town, but they state they have no place to go, and no money to live on.

It would appear to be necessary to remove these people from the City, owing to unsanitary conditions which prevail, and which will no doubt become worse in the warm weather, and I am of the opinion that a Government official should be taken around to see the conditions these people are living under, and to get all possible information, as it would appear to be the duty of the Provincial Government to find some place for them to live. If these people were Indians they could be ordered back to the reserves, but as they are half-breeds and Indians who have surrendered their Treaty rights, some means of livelihood will have to be provided for them so that they may not suffer from starvation and the children from mal-nutrition. Some of the children are of school age, but do not go to school.

One of the more intelligent of the men, a Mr. N [redacted], who is suffering from tuberculosis, informed me that there are about ten thousand homeless half-breeds in Alberta. It would seem that those in this City might be sent some place near the various municipalities to which they belong, but in any event, it will be necessary to provide for them in some way.

As mentioned above, two of the women, Mrs. P [redacted] and Mrs. S [redacted], require medical attention, but I believe Inspector Graham is reporting on this matter more fully, and is getting in touch with Dr. Boulanger.

I have the honour to be,
Sirs,
Your obedient servant,

A. G. Shute
CHIEF CONSTABLE.

M.

*Attention - Dr. Chiu.
Municipalities*