

War and peace

(The Sun, Grenfell, Sask.)

From the days of the Indian warpath to the comparative peaceful existence of life on a reservation and the modern innovations of the white man's way of life seems a long time. Indeed it is, yet Quachecan, who recently died on Sakimay reservation near Grenfell at the age of 108, had seen it all.

With her family she traversed the prairies, following the buffalo, long before the white man brought his iron horse and the other mechanical inventions which were to come. She lived in the days of the warpath and was 25 years old when the peace treaty was signed in 1874.

The continuation of her long life until last week, somehow symbolizes the decline of the Indian from a proud and self-sufficient race to the subjugated group now herded onto reservations without the rights of citizenship in the country they once called their own.

To have lived to such an age is no doubt an honor in itself, yet to have existed so long in a state bordering on captivity and imprisonment must indeed have been at times much less than pleasant.

Canada has much to be proud of as a nation. In the international sphere prominent Canadians have spoken out against the social injustices imposed on peoples in other parts of the world. Here at home the Indian "problem" is more than due for solution. Actually there is no problem, just a vacuum for sound, constructive legislation.

If the descendents of Quachecan are not to enjoy the rights of citizenship and the many blessings of this great country, then we as Canadians should hang our heads in shame.