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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 109
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 1819, WITH THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS

4328

4/6

Detroit 30 Sep 1819

Gov Lewis Cass,

Enclosing a treaty with
the Chippeways - remarks
thereon -

Report in favor of the
treaty with the Chippeways
with Supplemental art.

Chippeways 1819

Oct 1819

4
X
Detroit Sept. 30. 1819

Sir,

Accompanying this I have the honour to transmit to you a treaty, concluded by me on the part of the United States with the Chippewa Indians, for the cession of a considerable portion of their Country within this Territory.

I trust the general provisions of the treaty will meet with your approbation.

The boundaries of the tract ceded may be easily traced upon any good map of the United States. But owing to our ignorance of the topography of the interior of this Territory, it may eventually be found, when the lines are run, that the south eastern corner of the tract ceded is in the possession of the Grand River Indians. If so there will be no difficulty and very little expense in quieting their

claims.

That portion of the Chippewa Indians, which owned this land, have not made the necessary advances in civilization to appreciate the importance of education for their youth.

It was therefore hopeless to expect from them any reservations for this object, or to offer it as an inducement for a cession of their Country.

Some considerations more obvious in its effects, and more congenial to their habits was necessary to ensure a successful termination to the negotiation.

In acceding to the propositions, which they made upon this subject I endeavoured to give such form to the stipulations on the part of the United States, for the payment of annuities as would be permanently useful, and at the same time satisfactory to them.

Their own wishes unquestionably were, that the whole sum stipulated to be annually paid to them, should be paid in specie.

With the habitual improvidence of savages

they were anxious to receive what they could speedily dissipate in childish and useless purchases, at the expense of stipulations, which would be permanently useful to them.

The opinions advanced in your letter of instructions of March 27. 1819—respecting the injurious tendency of large annuities to the Indians are correct, and the effect of these annuities upon the Indians is stated with as much precision, as they could be, were they the result of daily intercourse with these unfortunate people.

Viewing the subject in this manner, I finally concluded to admit a stipulation, conformably to their wishes, for an annuity of One thousand dollars, but to secure the payment of whatever additional sum the Government of the United States might think they ought to receive, in such a manner, as would be most useful to them.

A stipulation therefore was inserted, that the

United States should provide and support a Blacksmith for them, and should furnish them ^{with} cattle, farming utensils and persons to aid them in their agriculture.

The amount, which shall be expended for these objects by the United States, the term during which this expense shall continue and the mode in which it shall be applied are left discretionary with the President.

In taking this course I was influenced by the consideration, that the negotiator of an Indian treaty is not always the best judge of the value of the purchase or of the amount which should be paid for it. Sometimes too much has been allowed, and at other times too little. He is not sent upon such a negotiation to ascertain the lowest possible sum for which the miserable remnant of those, who once occupied our Country, are willing to treat, and to seize with avidity the occasion to purchase.

Certain I am, that both you and the

Although I am firmly persuaded, that it would be better for us and for these Indians, that they should migrate to the Country west of the Mississippi, or at any rate west of Lake Michigan, yet it was impossible to give effect to that part of your instructions, which relates to this subject, without hazarding the success of the negociation. An indisposition to abandon the Country so long occupied by their tribe, a hereditary enmity to many of the Western Indians, and a suspicion of our motives are the prominent causes, which for the present, defeat this plan. When they are surrounded by our settlements, and brought into contact with our people, they will be more disposed to migrate.

In the mean time we may teach them those useful arts, which are connected with agriculture, and which will prepare them by gradual progress for the reception of such

President would censure me, and justly too, ⁴
were I governed in my intercourse with the
Indians by such principles. The great moral
debt, which we owe them, can only be dischar-
ged by patient forbearance, and by a
rigid adherence to that system of improve-
ment, which we have adopted, and the effects
of which are already felt in this quarter.

It is due to the Indians and to myself to say
that the sum, which, it was expected by us,
would be expended for the objects, which I
have mentioned, is from fifteen hundred
to two thousand five hundred dollars
annually. But they distinctly understand
that the amount of this expenditure is entirely
discretionary with the President. Of course
the Government can now apply such a sum
to these objects, as the value of the cession,
and the wants and population of the Indians
may justify.

institutions, as may be fitted for their character, customs & situations.

Reservations have been made for them to occupy, and I indulge the hope, that they will appreciate the advantages, which are now offered to them, and will aid, by their own efforts, the plans of improvement, which have been adopted by the Government.

Reservations have also been made for a few half breeds. It was absolutely necessary to our success, that these should be admitted into the treaty. Being only reservations, and the fee of the land remaining in the United States, I trust it will not be thought improper, that I admitted them.

In a supplementary article several provisions are inserted, which were urged by the Indians, but which I did not feel authorized to accede to in the body of the treaty.

The first is a grant of three sections of

land to Dr. Brown of this place for the professional services, which he has rendered, and the medicine he has furnished them during a period of more than twenty years. This claim to remunerate Dr. Brown has been urged by the Indians with great zeal at every treaty, which I have attended. Its rejection has always been difficult, and I am satisfied it is a near object with them. His attention and services to them have been unremitting and gratuitous, and of the most exemplary character. I cannot but hope, that it may be deemed proper to admit this grant, either in this manner or by special legislative provision.

Of the five grants in the same article to white persons, it is only necessary to say, they were admitted at the particular request of the Indians, and their confirmation would be gratifying to them.

Had I not been a resident of the Country affected by it, I should have admitted an unconditional stipulation respecting the

land appropriated for the making of roads.
But the principle being new in Indian treaties,
I thought it most advisable to leave the
stipulation upon this subject discretionary
with the President & Senate.

I do not perceive however, that the admission
of this principle generally, or that its applica-
tion in this particular case can be injurious
to the United States.

The private debts conditionally assumed are
bona fide due by the Indians, and they
appeared solicitous to discharge them. Two
worthy men are interested in the result.

It was my object to insert in the supplementary
article every provision, which was demanded
by the Indians, respecting the principle of,
which I felt doubtful, so that the President
and Senate might avoid the establishment
of a precedent, the effect of which may be
dangerous,

A large portion of the Country ceded is of
the first character for soil and situation.
It will vie with any land I have seen North
of the Ohio River. The cession probably contains
more than six millions of acres.

I shall be anxious to learn, that you approve
the result of this negotiation.

I am
Very respectfully,
I have the honour to be
Yr. obt. Servt.

Lewis Cass.

Hon. John O. Calhoun
Secretary of War
Washington City

Detroit 1 Oct 1819.

Gen. Lewis Cass,

In relation to the expenses
of the late treaty made with
the Chippewas, - not near
all of the provisions required
were issued - the expenses
of this Treaty will be paid
out of the sum appropriated
to his Superintendance.

Chippewa, 1819

4341

Oct 1819.

Detroit Oct. 1. 1819.

Sir,

I have the satisfaction to state, that the expense of the treaty recently concluded with the Chippeway Indians for the Saginaw Country will be defrayed from the sum appropriated for Indian expenditures within my Superintendency.

I received of the Commissary at this place twenty five thousand rations of fresh beef, salt provisions being unfit for the Indians. Little more than half of this has been issued. The residue will be issued to the troops here.

I presume the bills drawn by the Commissary for these provisions, together

or with the amount of the Flour and other
articles received from the publick store
Here will be charged to the sum of forty
five thousand dollars, assigned to the
agencies upon this frontier.

Whatever has not been issued will, I
trust be credited to the same appropria-
tion.

I am perfectly aware of the necessity of
economy in Indian expenditures, and
I claim no merit, except for an earnest
wish strictly to carry into effect all your
instructions.

Very respectfully, Sir,

I have the honor to be

yo. obt. servt.

Lewis

Hon. John C. Calhoun
Secretary of War.