Ratified treaty no. 157, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of August 3, 1829, with the Delaware Indians. August 3, 1829

Washington, D.C.: National Archives, August 3, 1829

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 157

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE

TREATY OF AUGUST 3, 1829, WITH THE DELAWARE INDIANS

Detroit June 16. 1829 -

Lewis Cass

Has been visited by deputations of Delawares & Senecas - who want to sell out & move west - he forwards copies of their talks —

8-3-29

Detroit June 10. 1829.

Sir.

A deputation of the principal Chiefs of the Delawares & Senecas of the State of Ohio, arrived here a day or two since. In a formal council held with them, they both stated the wish of their people to be, to cede to the United States their lands in that State, & to remove west of the Mississippi. I informed the Delawares, that an appropriation was made at the last session of Congress to purchase their title & assist their removal, but that I did not know what arrangement their Great Father had made or would make upon the subject. And I stated to them & to the Senecas, that I would communicate their wishes to the War Department, & inform them of the views of the government, as soon as an answer was received.

The accompanying copies of their speeches

will explain in detail, their expectations.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your obt Sr.
L Lewis

Col: Thomas L McKenney.

Columbus, Ohio,
Augt 7th 1829 -

John McElvaine
Has concluded a treaty with the Delawares for their reservation, and encloses the treaty -

To Mr Thomas
Washington City

Answered
Treaty sent in to Sec: of War -

Columbus Ohio Augt 7th 1829

Dr sir

On the 3d Inst I purchased of the Delaware tribe their claim to lands in Ohio I agreed with them at three thousand dollars I paid them two thousand in hand (every dollar of which I understand they owe, and I have also paid them nearly three hundred dollars in Goods, the balance of the three thousand dollars will be furnished to them in useful articles shortly, as they wish to set out upon their journey in about seventy five days -

I have drawn a draft on the Secty of War in favor of Mr Cosby the cashier of the Franklin Bank of Columbus, for thirty two hundred dollars, my reason for drawing for two hundred more than I was to pay the Indians for their land, I have had to furnish them with a quantity of provisions, and I had also to be at some expense in collecting them together &c &c, and they will still need assistance during their stay, being destitute of the means of support, not having farmed any this year, calculating to remove shortly after com planting prevented them from providing for the season, nor do they draw any annuity, they are in need of every article necessary, to enable them to remove, indeed they are entirely dependent upon the Government to aid them on their journey, they are a noble band but much given to intemperance in consequence of which some person ought to be impowered to accompany them to their place of destination otherwise if they do start they will more than likely return, which would be very injurious as it would prevent in a great measure the other tribes from selling their lands, I do believe that if the Government furnishes the Delaware tribe well, and lands them safe on the west side of the Mississippi, that it will be a means of ridding the State of every Indian in it, within less than five years, the Delawares are connected in marriage with the Wyandots & other tribes, and several individuals of other nations are going with them this will draw others and the object will be accomplished & away the stow in the way of the Indians

The lands purchased from the Delawares are valuable, and will sell for, from seven to ten thousand dollars. I therefore hope that the whole of the appropriation may be applied to their use, they will have to be furnished with horses, saddles, bridles, clothing, Rifles &c &c, and the expense of their journey will cost considerable they will not have time to hunt on the way, as winter is approaching –

When I purchased their Land I told them that their Greate Father the President would do something more for them. I gave them as little money as possible not more than would pay their debts, well knowing they would spend it, I will shortly forward a Statement of all articles furnished said tribe –

I will wait for further instructions as I have not been authorised to draw any more of the appropriation than would make the purchase, nor have I received any instructions to aid them on their journey –

I Remain your most obt Servt

John McElvain
Indian Agt

Col Thos L McKenney
Washington –