



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Documents relating to the negotiation of an unratified treaty of August 6, 1853, with the Winnebago Indians. August 6, 1853

Washington, D.C.: National Archives, August 6, 1853

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/PISTD4Y7ZOHC58M>

As a work of the United States government, this material is in the public domain.

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE
NEGOTIATION OF AN UNRATIFIED TREATY OF
AUGUST 6, 1853, WITH THE WINNEBAGO INDIANS

0737
Winnebago
Governor of Minnesota.
St Paul Sept. 9. 1853.
Treaty August 6. 1853

(M)
831
Treaty negotiated by him
with the Winnebagoes on 6th Aug 1853
for an exchange of country -
Also his report & other papers
connected therewith - account
for expenses - report & ap of S.D.
Loring exploring agent - speeches.

Recd & sent to Com. of Ind.
aff. to be brought up
in the regular way
Permittance of 1853rd Sept 21
1854

Recd - 21. Sept. 1853.
ack'd 22 " 1853.
See letter to Secy of Interior
21 Dec. 1853.

2. H. W. H. W. H. W.

Minnesota Superintendency
Saint Paul Sept 9/53

Sir,

I have the honor to send by to day's
mail the Report - Treaty - Record of The Speeches
and Character of the Exchange of Country
with the Winnebago Tribe of Indians

I also enclose a Report made by Hon S.B.
Lowry on the Exploration of the Crow River
and Upper Minnesota Rivers

I also send the list of his own and the
Chiefs Expenses in making this Exploration

As he was sent by me, to look at the different
Sections of Country wanted by the Indians
through abundant Caution, I deemed it proper
that he should be paid by the Govt, and
as his and the Chiefs Expenses born
his duty of the Govt I think by them selves

I also send my Itemized account for Expenses
of the Treaty people, I have made such
allowances as I thought just and proper

As some of these persons and the money I would
be glad to have a remittance at as early
a day as convenient, I will write more fully
by next mail.

Respectfully
Yours obt. servt.
N. A. Gorman

11 31
Exchange of Country
with the ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~
Concluded Augst
1853 — — —

Articles of a Convention made and
Concluded between Willis A Gorman
and Jonathan E. Fletcher on the part
of the United States and the Chiefs and
head men of the Winnebago tribe of Indians
On the 6th day of August, A.D. 1853. at
a point opposite the Village of Katab on
the Mississippi river.

Each of which Contracting parties renew to
each other their former pledges of peace and
friendship

Article (1.) It being desired by the said Winnebago
tribe of Indians to exchange their present country
West of the Mississippi river, for another more
suitable to their habits, wants, and customs, They
herely, and by these presents, grant, sell transfer
and convey to the United States all their lands
in the Territory of Minnesota, lying West of the
Mississippi, and North of Katab River and
South of Crow Wing and Long Prairie rivers
and relinquish to the United States all their right
title or claim thereto, said country so relinquished
supposed to contain Eight hundred thousand
Acres

Article 2. In consideration of the aforesaid
grant. The United States, herely grant to said
Winnebago tribe of Indians, to be held as other
Indian lands are held, all the land lying
within ^{a square of twenty miles, high up to the} the following boundaries, to wit.

Beginning at the Mouth of Crow river, thence up the Mississippi river with its Meanders, to the Mouth of Clear water river, thence up said Clear water river to its head Thence directly West until the line comes to Crow River, thence down said Crow river to the place of beginning. Said Country supposed to contain about five hundred thousand acres. Provided. That the United States reserve the right to locate the Stockbridge tribe of Indians at and north of the Mouth of Crow river and on the Mississippi and to grant them such quantity of land as the United States may deem Expedient and proper

Article 3. It is further agreed, that all treaty stipulations now existing between said Winnebago tribe of Indians, and the United States, shall be and remain in full force Except that no annuities in money, goods or provisions shall be paid or distributed to any of said Winnebago tribes who do not go and remain permanently on said Indian lands; And any fund thus created or thus accumulated, shall be appropriated as the President may direct, for the use of said tribe

Article 4. It is further agreed, that the removal of said Indians to their homes on Crow River shall be at their own expense. And that all improvements heretofore made on their present lands of said Winnebago tribe shall be appraised and sold, or reserved by the United States, and the value thereof applied to making similar improvements on their new Country herein given.

4

And that said Tribe shall remove themselves within one year from this date.

Article 5. It is further agreed, that the United States reserve the right of way, one mile wide, over any lands owned by said tribe, for any Rail Road, which may be ordered to be constructed by the Congress of the United States in the direction of the Pacific Ocean.

Article 6. It is further agreed, that the President of the United States may in his discretion, change the appropriation of any particular fund, from one object to another, with the consent of ~~said~~ the Chiefs of said Tribe.

Article 7. It is further agreed between the U. S. and the Winnebago tribe &c &c &c In Testimony Whereof the said parties have hereunto subscribed their names.

W. A. Gorman }
J. B. Fletcher } Coms.

Waa - no - shire	his + mark
Watah ha ta kaw	his + mark
Sitaw Shin	his + mark
Paw Led ech Kaw	his + mark
Baptiste Lasauncie	his + mark
Woonch ha ta kaw	his + mark
Maw her Koo Shay nand zhu Kaw	his + mark
Lo - no - ha - ta - kaw	his + mark
Uaw hoy kee kaw	his + mark

Waw kon chaw pee kant his x mark
 Waw kon chaw kee wee kant his x mark
 Waw kon chaw zee kant his x mark
 Waw maw noo kay kant his x mark
 Waw kon chaw ho no kant his x mark
~~Waw noo fand hee kant his x mark~~
 I have waw kop in a kant his x mark
 Wrong ho no kant (by his headman) his x mark
 Wa nan ha ta kant (") his x mark
 Head. Mew
 Kant ho " Sank kant his x mark
 Kant hee kant his x mark
 E pee oo kant his x mark
 Waw kee kant pin kant his x mark
 Maw hee sap kant his x mark
 Voon chi wrong o no kant his x mark
 Sineon Laquin his x mark
 Wo - noo - ho - kant his x mark
 Waw nand ho kant his x mark
 Wa nan choo ha ta kant his x mark
 Wan chi ka pee kant his x mark
 Waw to ho chee kant his x mark
 Waw sheesh kant his x mark
 Do's kant kant his x mark
 Wrong o chee kant his x mark

We certify that we witnessed the signing of each name,
and heard the treaty distinctly explained to them, and then
they were asked, if they understood it, to which they
replied that they did.

S. B. Lowry. Sub.

Peter Mannaig Ant

James C. Down Secretary to Com.

J. Frank Rosser. Sec. Min. Terr.

Charles Webb

Geo. W. Holbrook M.D.

Henry Foster

1881

Spectator

Copied - B.

1.
At a Convention began and held by
William A. Gorman and Jonathan E. Hatch,
on the part of the United States, and all the
Chiefs and principal men of the Winnebago
Tribe of Indians on the West bank of the
Mississippi River opposite the Town of
Matast, in the Territory of Minnesota, on
the 3rd day of August 1853:-

Names of the Chiefs:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Watch-ho-ta-kaw | 9. We-mu-shick |
| 2. Good-Thunder | 10. Co-mo-ha-tan-kaw |
| 3. Big-Bear | 11. Baptiste Lasalliere |
| 4. Sho-go-nick | 12. Prophet |
| 5. Yellow-Thunder | 13. Little Decorie |
| 6. Little Thunder | 14. Rojine |
| 7. Capt. Jim | 15. Kaw-ho-sank |
| 8. Shank-wan-ho-piw-e-kaw. | |

The Convention was opened by
the Commissioners who said as follows:
Com^r Gorman:

Within six days after I came
to this Territory, the Chiefs of the Winnebago
nation came to talk with me about an ex-
change of their lands. You met me at Saint
Paul and complained of the unsuitability of
your present country, and asked me to
write to your Great Father at Washington.
I told you I would do so and would likely
receive an answer in thirty days. I did accor-
-dingly write your request and did receive
an answer within thirty days. In that answer
your Great Father said he was willing to

exchange your land and give you a home on Crow River. When I was at "Bum River" I told you I should receive a letter when I returned home authorizing the Exchange. I did receive it: by that letter Gen. Fletcher and myself were authorized to hold a Council with you at such time as would be selected by ourselves.

I first suggested that you send some Chiefs with a white man to examine the Country to which you wished to go; you did so. After they had returned I received another letter in reply to your propositions made at Bum River. You proposed first to locate yourselves near and below the Sioux reservation. 2^d within the Sioux reservation 3^d To have a home on Crow River.

The first two propositions, I am directed by your Great Father to say, can not be entertained. The letter of July 19. 1853 referred to was then read. Under these instructions Gen. Fletcher and myself are here to day to counsel with you. I have been informed that the stock bridges are to be located at the mouth of Crow River and on the Mississippi if they wish. But the Great Father has instructed us to offer you, first: To extend the southern limits of your present Country down to "Sawto River" without any consideration in return. 2nd We offer you a home high up on Crow River upon either fork. 3rd We offer you a home on the North fork of Crow River not approaching nearer the Mississippi than twenty five miles, but in no event to come below the forks of Crow River.

I wish you distinctly to understand that this Council is called at your own request.

The Country on Crow River is more valuable to

you than that where you now are, and your Great Father makes this offer on account of his good will towards you. You have had a long time to think of this matter, and we expect you will not detain us here long without understanding what is to be done. When your Great Father wants your lands, he asks you for them; this time you have asked him. You have told me this Country was not adapted to ~~neither~~ your wants or wishes or manner of living, therefore it should not take you a great time to come to a decision what you want and where you wish to go -

Winnoschick. Father how many days can you stay here?
Commissioners. We can stay this week or longer if necessary.

Winnoschick. Father, after you left us at Run River, we started on our hunts and have had no opportunity to council among ourselves until now. We can not talk to day for we might speak differently, where if we were to talk among ourselves we might talk alike and all agree; I suppose our white Brethren do the same -

Commissioner Gorman. We will give you your own time for consultation. We don't ask you for money nor have we any to give you. You want to buy our land with yours, this is your Treaty, We will certainly give you time to talk among yourselves freely and fully, and we want you to understand that you must talk among yourselves and with none others, unless it be with us. We are the persons for you to talk with. No papers must be signed, unless in the presence of myself or Genl. Fletcher; You have treated with the United States often enough to know what is necessary to be done. If you conclude to take the councils of other persons instead of us, we had as well go home.

We are not children and what we say we mean. We are the Commissioners, we with you must make this treaty. Do you understand what I mean by this talk? Ho-ho-ho.

When you counsel among yourselves we want you to look at these matters - relative to improvements on your present Indian lands; in regard to those improvements you should pay due respect to the rights of each other. This is all we have to say to you until we return to morrow -

Thursday August 4. 1853.

Shaking hands with the Commissioners and saluting all present -

Mannoshick said -

Father I suppose you expect to hear from us this afternoon; Father the Great Spirit above us who made both the white man and the red man, looking down upon us and seeing our inability to protect ourselves, made the white men to be our Fathers and protectors. The Great Spirit placed us here upon this earth where we could not speak to him, He made the red man not equal to the white man, our maker in placing us here out of his reach foresaw what sufferings we should endure and what we are now enduring -

He saw our troubles and provided for them by sending you here to talk to and care for us.

Our great Father, the President Eyes extend over this Island and his arms reach around it.

Our great Father has sent you as his representative

to talk to us for him. In talking to you we think we are talking to our Great Father, and that our words will not fall lightly upon your ears, but that our requests will be granted, if they are reasonable.

When you first came to this Territory our Chiefs called to see you about a matter in which we were all interested, to give up our present home, for a home on Crow River. The Chiefs when they came back received their money. You made the Chief and young men glad by granting their first request. The Chiefs thought you would be a Father who would grant all their reasonable requests. I tell you these things that you may know we are gratified for the favor shown us. We never wanted the Country we now have. Father you have heard the Chiefs say that this land was worthless to us. Father that is so; the animals we have been accustomed to hunt and eat are not here.

We are glad that our Father is willing to exchange with us; but we would be glad if our Father would place no miles between us and the Mississippi. Perhaps we shall detain you to long, we know your time is valuable, our is not, we are not the only children you have to care for, you have the Chippewas above and the Dakotas below.

We say again, we wish you to limit us to no miles between the Mississippi, we want to come to that river. To morrow you shall hear from us in regard to your propositions.

Little Hill said.

Father you heard my mind on this subject within six days after you came to the Territory. I have not changed it. We had hoped

that our Great Father would have taken
 into consideration the fact that the Minnetobas
 have been more obedient to him than his other
 Children. We hoped he would consider that
 we did not come to this country of our own ac-
 cord, but that we did it to please him, and we
 were compelled to come here. We have told
 you the cause of our troubles, and we also
 wrote these things to our late Great Father, but he
 paid no attention to our words. We told him
 this country was not suited to us in any way -
 that we had not the animals here we were ac-
 -customed to eat and hunt. This we wrote
 two years ago. After our late Agass's lesson we
 wrote to our Great Father again and heard nothing
 of it until you came. Father our mind have
 not changed. We like Crow River better than
 any other place - but we do not want to be ex-
 -cluded from the mouth of it. We know that
 our Great Father never removed any of his red
 children so far as he has the Minnetobas, and
 that he never allows his red children to take
 a step backwards. The land is his, either
 to keep or give to his white children or to give
 to us. Our wish to day is that we may have
 the country between the Sank and Crow River
 including the mouth of Crow River. We want no
 reserve between us and the Mississippi. We
 want no white folks there. This is what
 Men-no-shick got up to say. There are other
 matters which we wish to talk about, but I
 conclude by saying that this is the country we
 want. and earnestly hope our fathers will
 not refuse us this.

7-

Com^{rs} Gorman.

Your Great Father at Washington in making you these propositions was guided by a sincere desire to gratify your wishes, as was promised in 1846.

When I first wrote to the Great Father at the request of the Chiefs, I informed him you wanted a home on Crow River, but did not say whether you desired a home near its source or at its mouth. He did not delay a single day in answering me that I might answer you *peacable* as I had promised - *Ho. ho. ho.*

But in the letter, he directed that you should not come within 25 miles of the Mississippi.

He gave as a reason, that the Stock-bridges were to have 42 sections at the mouth of Crow River.

They got this promise some time ago in 1852. You will find them to be good and *peacable* neighbors.

But we did not come here to tell you what we wanted, but we learn what you wanted and are willing to grant you any reasonable request, when it is not contrary to the instructions from your Great Father. We can not give you more than 500,000 acres, nor can we permit you to come nearer than 25 miles of the Mississippi. You know

the farther you go down the Mississippi the more valuable are the lands to us. In a year from this time, we expect probably that two or three Steam Boats will pass the mouth of Crow River, the produce of the soil will find a better market, and this will make your land more valuable.

If we should want to buy your land, we should be compelled to give you more for it, than for the land where you now are. If we give you a home on Crow River, it will some day become valuable on account of the settlements of the white man

now near and on the East side of the Mississippi. If we were to give you the same amount of land down, then it would be worth more than yours.

We wish you to counsel among yourselves about what has been said and all the particulars of a treaty, some of which I will now tell you, as I have told you before - If we give you this land on Crow River, we shall reserve a right of way for a Railroad toward the Pacific Ocean.

It is the expectation of your Great Father that in a few years, Congress will order a Railroad to be built to the Pacific Coast and it possibly may run near or over your country - That too will give great value to your lands -

I have no doubt that in the ordinary course of events, the oldest man among you, will live to see this Railroad built -

I have told you these things to show you that we cannot give you so much land there as you now have here - It has been and

is now the policy of your Great Father to limit all the Indian annuities to fifty years or less.

But you need not fear but that he will always take good care of you - He will feed and cloth you as long as there are any braves left, no doubt -

We now wish to repeat to you that this council was called at your request, I supposed I had given you time enough to consider all the matters relating to the Treaty, and that we should find you all of one mind; as we suppose you will be - We wish to say to you that no one must be deceived, we have no money to give you and none to ask of you. We propose simply to give you that Crow River Country

In this, according to the instructions from your Great Father. We do not make the limitation of annuities a condition precedent to the Exchange of your land, but your Great Father would prefer it. Is there any thing now you don't understand, if so let it be explained before we part to night?

Wen-no-shick:

We don't see what would be done with the money, if at the end of fifty years the annuities were limited -

Coms. Gorman:

That would be left to your Great Father. If your annuities were to continue forever and nearly all of your band should die, we should then have to pay your large annuities to those who were left; this would not be right and this is the reason we wish to limit your annuities. The Prophet said the other day, that Gov. Clark once said if the Sac and Foxes continued in war they would all be blown away like the ashes in his pipe. That possibly would be the way with the Winnebagoes, if they should go to war.

Your Great Father would be willing to pay you a reasonable amount, but would be unwilling to pay you two and three thousand dollars a piece every year. Suppose the Great Spirit was to send the Cholera and sweep off all but Wen-no-shick and his family, we should have to pay him \$98,000 - as long as he or any of his family lived. We don't know what the Great Spirit may do.

Let us give you a little advice.

You must adopt more of the customs of the whites or your race will diminish every year. Ho, ho. To morrow we will give you a good fat beef. Ho, ho, ho, ho. as you requested. ho, ho, ho.

Little Hill:

You spoke of your breakfast, it makes one think perhaps you will not want to eat alone. (Laughter.)

Mumushick:

Father I am a young man and when I want a thing I want it badly, I know all about Crow River Country and that is the place I want, I want the Prairie below the forks, this is all I have to say to night.

When our Father Gov. Ramsay was removed and I heard a new one was appointed, I thought that we should find relief from our troubles, and when I went down to see you six days after your arrival in the Territory, my hopes were confirmed - Since the memory of the oldest man, we have always been willing to listen to the words of our Great Father. We are the same Indians we were then. Even when other Indians have in anger spilled the blood of our Great Father's white children, we have not even had unfriendly words with them and why should we not now listen to his advice. I have never been angry with our Great Father, even when a boy I never did any thing foolish. I am too old a boy to do anything in haste now. It was my notion to move the Winnebagoes back a step, but before I spoke of it to my men I mentioned it to Little Hill and he favored it. Had he objected I would have stopped. We thank our Great Father and think it a mark of especial kindness in him to allow us to take a step backwards.

I am going to Crow River if I can get there and then live until I die.

I hope Father, you will not think it is on

account of trouble with bad neighbors. I want
Crow River and to come to the Mississippi.
We thought of this new Country two years ago
and we were promised it many times.

Corn. Who else wishes to exchange lands?
Little Hill -

I have a few words to say to you
Father, you see me looking like the other Winne-
bago Indians. I am not equal to some of
them, but you are not the first Father the Chiefs
have heard me speak to. In times past our
Great Father has made and removed Chiefs at
his pleasure. I do not now speak for the
other chiefs, if I should say we want all receive
our money on Crow River, it would be a lie.
That is the Country I want, Wenushick I
have not changed my mind, I want that country.
Big Canoe:

Father in the Council of the Winne-
bagoes I am not of much importance, I am
a white man, but have lived so long among
the Indians that skin is as you see it.
I have not lost my heart - but lost my hair
and so I live with the Indians. I have got
as far in this Country as I want to go.
We left many of our people on the way from
Long Prairie - I am sorry there has been trouble
about this matter among ourselves.
It is the Country I want to hunt on.
Little Hill:

Little Thunder and Rogers wish
me to speak for them. They are two of the
Chiefs one a land Chief and the other not.
They are seldom heard in Council; They
wish this land on the forks of the Crow river.

Name not known:

Father my voice is seldom heard in Council, but my mind is now different. I have a voice of my own. You shall hear what I have to say. Your Land Chiefs gave me a piece of land and it made me very much ashamed. A Land Chief made me take a quill and hold it to the Great Spirit, I would be glad to exchange land as the rest have said.
Cap^t Jim:

Father I am accountable for this trouble. The Prophet say he shall go. If he takes all his daughters with him I supposed I must follow. I wish the Exchange.

Skam. au. to hope. nee. kaw:

That is my hunting ground. I want the land Win. no. shick has described.

Good Thunder:

Father I am done running around, I want to make a field down at the forks of Crow River.

Big Bear:

I tell you what I am to do: I asked the Chiefs a favor: they would not grant it and I shall go by myself. We will (meaning his band) will live on Snake River.

Co. no. ha. ta. kaw:

When I came down here I did not expect to sign any treaty, I want to stay here and see to my land. I will not sign any treaty.

Sku. hetch. kaw, by Prophet:

I don't know why our young Chiefs don't speak for themselves. I supposed they have been among the girls.

Baptiste:

What ever I have to say I shall say straight. I don't claim any right to complain of the Chiefs for giving away the land: I will tell you my mind: I have known our Great Father would want this Country. As the Chiefs had all left this Country I thought and I determined to save this Country for our Great Father for sale. The Chiefs who own this land offer to give it away. I am sorry they are throwing it away instead of selling it. I hear a little more than other Chiefs, I speak the English language. This Rail-road I know will make this land here below valuable: our Great Father's eyes are already upon it. Yesterday you said this land was not worth as much as the Country below. Does not our Great Father know that in two or three years this will be worth more than that. I am sorry the Chiefs wish to throw away this land - had I the power I would sell it. You have seen some of our timber floated down this river. I talk as a white man, I am not a brave or a hunter; the Chiefs have decided to make this exchange, when they do perhaps I will go and perhaps I will make a home by myself, but I am not a land Chief, and I suppose I will agree to what the rest do.

Saturday August 6th 1853.

Commissioners.

We told you last night that in the morning we would have a treaty to read for you.

Interpreter reads the treaty and explains to the Indians.

Wen-wo-shick:

Father you have shown us your paper and we wish now to show you one. Above us we understand there are two beings made like ourselves - our maker placed us here on this earth to live: he made us a book the earth, and gave us a paper for ourselves. He gave us a paper that when we talk among ourselves and our Father the whites we might not forget that talk. He gave us a book as wide as this Island. He gave us another the moon and stars whiter than the one you have before you, we see it at night.

At one time when we were receiving some money and a paper like that you have was opened before us, something very singular happened.

When that paper was opened, we saw a little bird fly over it, and a little animal crawled from underneath and knawed the paper and some money was missing perhaps one dollar. We very often make an offering to the Great Spirit and at this time we thought the Great Spirit had sent the bird and little animal although we were at a loss to know why he sent them to take our money.

The second time the paper was opened the little bird flew over and the little animal came underneath and more money was missing.

and each time the paper was opened, the animal and bird came and carried off more of the money, at one time two or three measures. At one time I watched the paper and a little white hand from behind carried off a box or two of the money - This time we mean to watch the bird and animal -

Gov. Gorman:

You need not fear that bird and little animal now, they do not belong to the present but to the past administration.

Wen. no. Shick:

The Winnebagoes have always been liberal to our Great Father, what we have had, we have given freely. At times after time we have given him land, we have looked behind and have seen white men settle on the lands given by us. We saw them as first poor and in a little while we saw them rich and their pockets full of money.

The little birds and animals have been all the time increasing and lately they took money goods and provisions -

Father you say this Country is not valuable to us. The summer Gov. Ramsay came up a Beaver built his hut here and knaved down our tall trees our pine and threw them into the river. There were two or three of them here, I think they can all be found at the big dam at St Anthony - Father I wish to exchange this Country for that and am thankful to our Great Father -

Gov. Gorman:

That article in the Treaty providing for a Rail road is the best

provision of the whole - If the road should be built it would double the value of your lands -

That little bird and animal we will try to find, and your Great Father has sent an Gun to hunt the Beaver -

Little Hill asked us to give you \$50,000 - for the first year but much we might wish to do it, we cannot because it is contrary to our instructions or this is our understanding of them -

Gov. Fletcher:

I told you that your Great Father's offer of the extension of your Country to Sans River was a good one and you should always remember it as an evidence of his good will towards you. I told you you would be \$400,000 - better off to take that than the Crow River Country - soon you may get into trouble with the whites, all the land will be settled and you will be compelled to take a Country on the Missouri - Your chiefs most of them have decided to make the Exchange; white men abide by the will of the majority and that is the way you should do -

Now the Council was adjourned till Monday.

Monday Morning:

Little Hill:

Fathers we have but a few words to say this morning: you granted the wishes of the Winnebagoes. We are all now satisfied and have nothing to detain you any longer. We wish to get to our hunts as soon as possible. We have not been deceived.

Fathers when we are done your white children will have something to say. What is true we want you to listen to and that which is not true to disregard.

Commissioners:

The Interpreter will now read the Treaty which was done.

Do you understand it?

Indians: Ho, ho, ho, and ho. said all.

Winoshick was first called to sign the Treaty. He said:

Fathers we are glad to meet you this morning. Our Great Father did not want to give us the Minnesota Country, but has given us our last choice and allowed us to place our Council fire again on the Mississippi.

We wish to sign the Treaty with the understanding that some day our Great Father will give us the difference \$700,000 - between our lands at any rate we wish to understand in signing that you will recommend this to our Great Father at Washington.

Comr. Fletcher:

You did not understand me Saturday. I mean the addition to your present Country with your present land would be worth \$400,000 - more than the land on Crow River.

We shall recommend a liberal consideration
for your improvements.

Gov. Gorman:

I thought you had better go up
above the forks of Crow River, and you owe to your
Agent many thanks for getting you here to come
to the Mississippi. When you go there you must
thank him and always respect him for it, for I
have only consented to let you come to that
river, because I found you had been promised
a Country to suit your "wants and wishes" by the
Treaty of 1846. and because it seems you will
not be satisfied without it, and I am not
sure your Great Father yet consents to let you
come to that great river.

I having therefore yielded to the opinion
and views of your Agent (Hatch), we
are now ready to let you sign the Treaty.

Wm
Hon S. B. Lowry -
Report.

3

Copied - B.

Incident of 3rd Aug 1. 1853.

To His Excy W. A. Gorman }
Govt. Agent Ind Affs. } Sir,

In compliance with your request I left on the 6th of the Winnebago and proceeded to accompany the party of Winnebago Indians who had been designated by their Tribe to explore the lands on the Minnesota and the head of Crow River. Pending a reply to their proposition made through your Excy to the Indian Department for an exchange of country.

Inasmuch as you had intimated to the Indians at the Council at Prairie River that it was not probable that the Government would favorably entertain a proposition for the "Cotton-wood Country" on the St. Peter; I deemed that exploration immaterial and considering it unnecessary to spend any time in examining that region in person and proceeded as soon as practicable after reaching Traverse de Sioux with a portion of the party to the head of Crow River, sending two of the Winnebagos accompanied by Sioux guides to the lands adjoining the Sioux reservation on the south side of the Minnesota.

After leaving Traverse de Sioux we passed over a most beautiful and

8766
further Agricultural region and found the
entire route from that point to the head of
The South branch of The Crow river, a
distance of 35 miles, to be quite as
inviting a farming district as is to be
found in Minnesota, and one which
is already being so rapidly taken up
by farmers, that the Indians themselves
of the party were satisfied that a location
of their tribe in that region could be
but a temporary one,

After crossing the South branch of the
Crow River, we found a difference in
the character of the timber & soil, the
country about the middle and north forks
of Crow river abounded in lakes, and
prairie swamps, and though containing
considerable tracts of farming land is
one better adapted to the wants of a
small Indian population than to a
dense settlement of whites, The Indians
who examined this region with me,
expressed themselves on their return as
pleased with it but though preferring
the head of Crow River to their present
location, I am convinced that to strong
is their attachment for the banks
of the Mississippi river that no location
of the tribe within striking distance
will ever entirely rid the settlements
on that river of their presence, with-
out the aid of the military to com-
pel them to remain on the land.

assigned them. Permit me to add that a location upon the extreme south branch of the Crow river, would be as obnoxious to the Seminoles on the St. Peters river, as their present position is to those on the upper Mississippi, bringing them, as that would, down to within a short distance of the South Bend of the St. Peters, the temptation to revisit their old haunts in the State of Iowa, would be constantly leading them to show south, through the White Seminoles and across the State Line.

Your Excellency will allow me to suggest that in case the location of this tribe is to be changed I should consider one on the North branch of the Crow river, or between the head of that fork, and the head of Snake river, to be the most advantageous to the Territory inasmuch as that land is less desirable to the Whites and is adapted to the former habits of the Algonquians, being a prairie country abounding with lakes and having a sufficiency of timber for an Indian population, yet I repeat, I am satisfied that a large portion of the tribe, though they would prefer that to their present home, would be constantly wandering upon the

banks of the Mississippi river, without
the use of force on the part of the
Government to keep them back,

I enclose herewith an account of my
Expenditures for the Exploring Party

Very Respectfully
Yours and truly
J. M. Lowry

Wm. J. McLaughlin

Report.

1871
Com. report.

Copyd. B.

W. B. Mason
1871

Minnesota Superintendency
Saint Paul Aug 12th 1853.

Sir.

The undersigned commissioner to negotiate an Exchange of Country with the Winnebago tribe of Indians, Respectfully report that they had the Indians convened at a point opposite the village of Watab on the Mississippi on Wednesday the 3rd day of August 1853. The Council was opened by having letters of the Department read and carefully interpreted, particularly the parts referring to the limited approach to the Mississippi.

The propositions of the Gov^t were then distinctly read and interpreted to them. 1st To extend their country without consideration to Sauk River as a Southern boundary 2nd To give them a country between Sauk River and Crow River twenty five miles from the Mississippi in accordance with your directions 3rd To give them a country in the forks of Crow River, not coming below the forks.

In the first place we sent a delegation of Chiefs with S. B. Lowry Esq to look at Crow River high up above the forks, and to report to their tribe. Mr Lowry returned and gave information to one of the Commissioners that the Indians thought favorable of it, but to our surprise the Chiefs had reported very unfavorable to their tribe as to its adaptation to their wants and habits. Gov. Conner immediately informed the Indian Dept. that their report was favorable and Mr Lowry was greatly surprised, as he had been induced to believe that they would be pleased with it.

They therefore continued to insist most earnestly to have a home lower down on Crow river and especially as they gave up sixty miles on the Mississippi, that they may be permitted to have a small ship, or at least some point of their country touch the Mississippi. All propositions of the Govt were ~~rejected~~ ^{unsatisfactory} unless they could get some point touching that river. We told them the Govt had promised the Stockbridge tribe of Indians that they might have seventy two Sections north of

Crow and on the Mississippi making
 six miles up Crow and twelve miles on the
 Mississippi; and that while such a promise,
 express or implied was subsisting with that tribe,
 we could not give them to the mouth of Crow
 River or to the Mississippi —

After several days counsel
 and much deliberation, we consented to give
 them such boundaries as are found in the
 second article of the treaty, leaving the authority
 with the Govt to grant such rights to the Stock-
 bidders as might be deemed proper and expedient.
 Under this the Govt can say the hire of the
 Winnebagoes shall come to any point within twenty
 five miles if they choose, you will not fail
 to perceive that we get more than sixty miles
 on the Mississippi, including the excellent and
 extensive pines, and about nine hundred
 thousand acres, or more perhaps, of country —

We give them only sixteen miles
 on the Mississippi if the Govt grants the
 Stock bidders a home at the mouth of Crow River,
 twelve miles long and six miles wide, or seventy two
 sections.

4.

It will be born in mind that the Agency of the Minnibagoes is situated at Long Prairie - fifty five miles from the head of Steamboat navigation ~~and twenty eight miles~~ in the interior from the Mississippi, costing the Govt. several thousand dollars every year for land transportation of their annuity supplies.

2nd That the Agency is in the Interior and the Indians in front on the river and contiguous to the white settlements, beyond the immediate control of their Agent; that this has been perhaps the greatest annoyance to the Agent, the whites and the Indians -

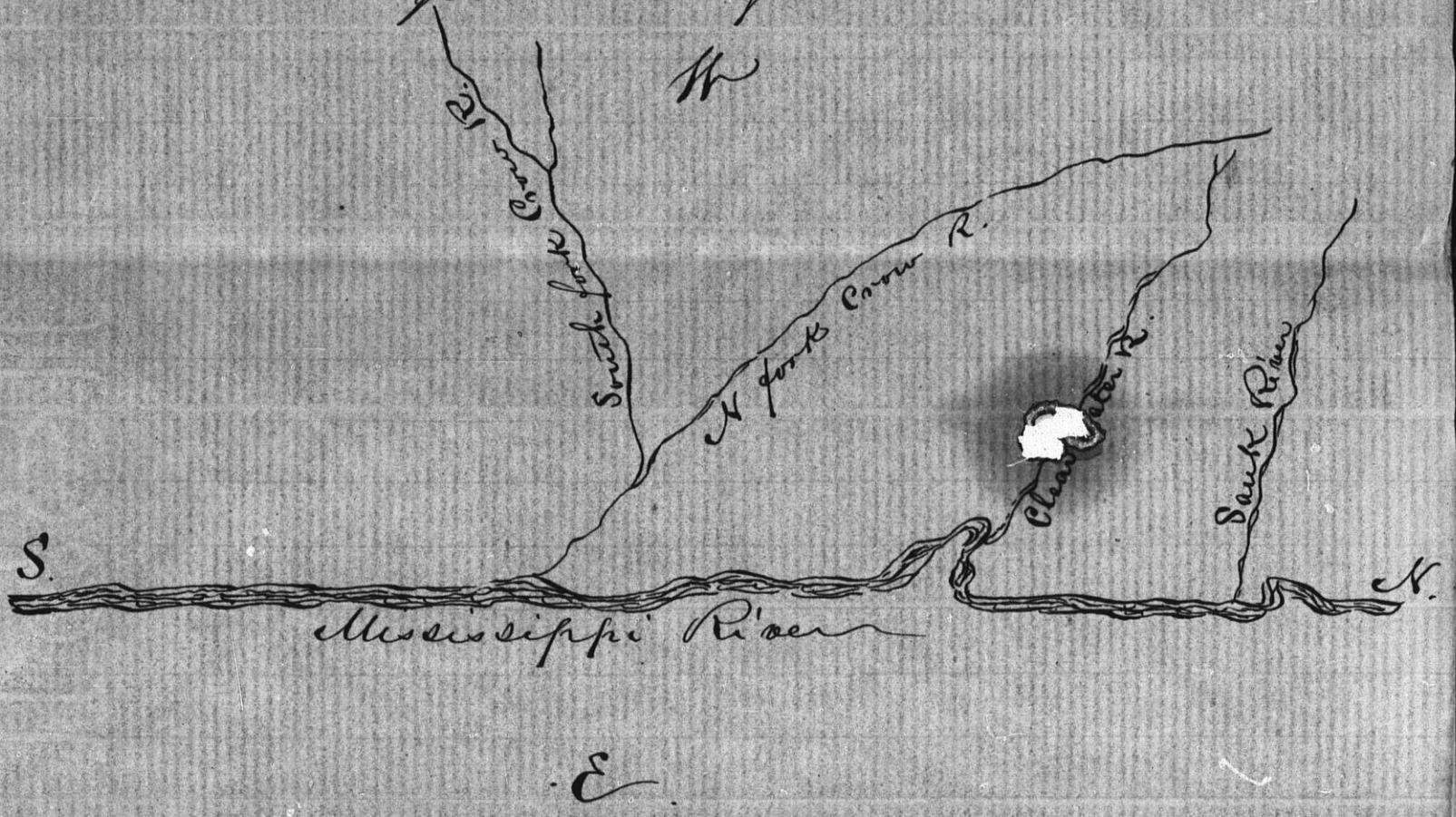
3rd. That all this land transportation will be saved to the Government -

4th That the Agency will now be placed on the Mississippi River, with their farms, schools, missions &c and the Indians in the rear, and only a few miles below the Southern boundary of their late Country, thus giving the Agent the opportunity to check their wandering habits, redress their wrongs and suppress the liquor traffic more effectually, which has been the greatest source of evil to the whites and Indians, also to give prompt accessibility

5.
to all persons complaining of depredations from the Indians and giving prompt relief.
5th We aver it as a known fact that this tribe will come to the Mississippi River if they are placed fifty miles in the Interior, that distance would be no better but worse for the white settlements and the Indians, for it is only in their wanderings that they steal or otherwise depredate on the whites. Their Agency being on the River is the only safeguard to Indian or white man.

16th We found it impossible to comply with your instructions literally, and have drawn upon the general disputation given in another particular - The forks of the Crow River is not twenty five miles from the Mississippi, nor can you get 25 miles off until you go up near one hundred miles by water. By the bends of the Mississippi, it is not more than eighteen miles across to Crow river for a distance of forty miles up Crow - and twenty miles up the Mississippi ^{by land}. Therefore it is impossible to start at the forks of Crow river and run toward Clear water and Sauk river and keep twenty five miles from the Mississippi.

The sketched map hereon shows
the relative position of the two rivers -



The point the Territorial Legislature had in view together with Gov. Ramsey, Agent Kiedly and others, was to let this tribe have some home where they could concentrate their tribe and be satisfied and stop their running over the country between Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota. This point was the controlling idea with us. The Govt. said to us in substance to satisfy them; humanity demanded that we should satisfy them, or we do not think that one thousand of them would be left in the country in twelve months more. Indeed hundreds of them are now in Wisconsin and Iowa, and numerous letters and petitions have been received by this Superintendency to remove them from these States and complaining loudly of the depredations they are committing.

In this view we earnestly represent that unless they are satisfied with a new country, their tribe will be broken in fragments and they become men wanderers and vagabonds. This we suppose the Govt. will seek earnestly to avoid. We told them that they must now be satisfied; they all pledged themselves that they would - they are delighted and

pleased beyond measure, and say they will ever remember their great father with gratitude.

We should not fail to inform you that there are four or five persons who reside on the East bank of the Mississippi and have made claims on the West side, although the right of occupancy is yet with the Med. & wa. Hanton Sioux. These claims if improved will or as we think ought to be purchased at reasonable rates for Indian farms and other purposes useful to the tribe, and which is properly within the treaty stipulations; these persons will cheerfully consent to this arrangement, and so far as we have heard the settlers on the East side ^{and contiguous} are perfectly satisfied with this change. This tribe have from time to time lived on and about Crow river from their entrance into the Territory.

Their payments have once ^{or twice} been made near the mouth of Crow river and it has always been their hunting ground, and it may be truly said that an Indian's hunting ground is his home.

They solemnly protest against being forced to go and live on their late Country; indeed

9

many of them in open council, said they were going to live and die on Crow River.

The Secretary of the Interior had got the impression we presume from Gov. Ramsay's letter that the mouth of Crow River was seventy miles from the Mississippi. It is not that distance nor is it twenty miles by land.

The Crow River country abounds with game, wild rice ^{and we are informed} in sufficient ^{or nearly so} abundance each year to feed the tribe on rice alone. We have been careful to make no change in former Treaties that would require it to go before the Senate for Ratification ^{in the opinion of one of your Commissioners}. - We have therefore concluded to let the Indians remain where they now are or nearly so, in the Crow River country. It will not even be necessary to tell them to go.

Their improvements at Long Prairie we have concluded to value and sell or pay the Indians for them if approved by the Department.

A. A. Gorman }
J. C. Fletcher } Comd'g

11841
How S B Lowry?
Bill of Expenses of
Exploring party.

Expenses of Winnipeg Exploring Party.

July 1	Paid Steam Railway for	
	4 passages down Mts	6 00
	Paid Rodney Parker for 4	
	days board while waiting	
	at St Paul for St. Bon	28 00
	Paid Steam "Colon" for	
	passages up to Traver-	
	se de Sioux	20 00
	Paid Three Sioux for	
	use as guides and use	
	of 3 horses	30 00
	Paid Roy for use of 2	
	Horses for 4 days	12 00
	Paid Selman for 2	
	Horses 5 days	20 00
	Paid Attyren for	
	provisions	11 25
	Paid Wines of party	
	at Traverse going & re-	
	turning	14 75
	Paid Wines coming	
	down from Traverse in	
	Canoe	2 25
	Paid for Canoe	10 00
	Paid Stage fare to	
	St Anthony going and	
	returning	5 00
		\$159 25

The above is the amount of
 the travelling expenses of
 the party exploring up the
 St Peters and Crow Rivers
 L. B. Irving

Minnesota Superintendency
 Saint Paul Sept 1853

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit to you the list of the expenses incurred by the Commissioners Willis A. Gorman and Jonathan E. Hlesche on the part of the United States, in the late Treaty, concluded at Watab with the Minnebagos tribe of Indians - viz:

1853.

Aug 1st	At St Anthony (to treaty)	2.50
" 2 -	" Itasca "	4.75
" "	" Elk river "	2.00
" 9	" Gates place (on return)	1.50
" -	" Big Lake -	2.00
" -	" Itasca -	2.00
" 1 + 8 -	Hemise of Dragoons and Commissioners Gorman, up and back, at Plum River	5.75
	Stationery -	1.00
	Conveyance to and from Treaty for four.	45.50
	For interpreter 10 days - - -	100.00
To Hon. S. B. Loring for exploring Indian Country on Crow	River with Minnebagos Chief 20 days	100.00
	Expenses at Watab, board of Com. Secretaries (2) Interpreters (2) + Keeping horses, messengers to Long Prairie and Crow for Minnebagos, ferrage across the Mississippi and ferry charter 6 days	166.00
	as per Voucher -	200.00
	Services of Secretaries 20 days.	200.00
	Contingencies for Gov. Gorman	20.00
		<u>653.00</u>