RATIFIED TREATY NO. 330

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE

TREATY OF APRIL 12, 1864, WITH THE RED LAKE

AND PEMBINA CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Chippewa 1824
Chipps. of Red Lake
& Pembina &c.
1864

Interview of Chippewa Chiefs with Comr. Dole, at the Indian Office, Washington D.C. previous to the signing of the treaty April 13, 64

Mr. Comm
File

Interview of Chiefs of the Chippewa Indians,

with Commissioner Dole, at the Indian office, Washington, D. C., previous to the signing of the Treaty,

April 13th 1864.

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Interview of Chippewas and Red Lake Indians before Commissioner Dole, April 13, 1864.

Comm'r. You will state to these chiefs in consequence of their disposition to disagree to the Treaty made at Red Lake, their Great Father and his council, the Senate of the United States, have had under consideration amendments to that Treaty to make it conform to their views — that we have these amendments before us, — that they will be read to them, and I want them to decide whether they are now in accordance with their ideas. I have no doubt they will now be pleased.

{Mr. Thompson, Superintendent, or agent.} The Great Father has delegated me to make this supplemental Treaty with them. I will now read the Treaty that was made with them last summer at the croping of Red ~~Lake~~. River.

{The treaty and amendments were then read and interpreted to the Indians}

May dwa gno no wind. I had my mind made up when I started from home. I came here to do something for my people

and now I have seen that we have come to an understanding, I have made up my mind whatever bargains I shall make I want ~~to keep it~~ a copy of it when I go away.

Com[r]

He can have that.

Chief. When I first came into this house I was very glad to hear the remarks made by the commissioner — about peace and friendship existing forever. Our forefathers were always friendly to the whites — they had never any trouble at all with the whites. We are still in the same way — we are very friendly to the whites, always have been and always will be. I wish that friendship with the Great Father may always continue and that he may never raise his hand against his children. For my part, speaking for my people, I say this, that they will never raise their hands against the white children of my great father. My relatives — I call you my relatives because I came here to see my great father, and I

consider that he is our father—and thought he would have pity on us and help us, and give us what we want, so we can go home satisfied. I have got two of my warriors, my braves here with me. I have also three brothers with me here and I think and feel for my brothers. The reason why I mention this is that they have a good deal of influence with the young men. They are head warriors and I wish my great Father would recognize them as chiefs—give them two medals. There are also four behind—four braves—that I should wish to be recognized as such. I would like to sit with them when I talk about business I want to get an answers if they will be allowed to me. I want them all to receive medals, but my brothers I want to be recognized as chiefs. I want my great Father to give me a certificate that I shall hold in my hand of the position that I hold among my people. And I wish my great Father to give me one of those big flags—I dont want a small one—I want a big one and a good one. And also a medal—I would like to get a good one. I have done as my

Father wishes me to do, I am going to do according to his wishes. If some of my young men should get into mischief will I have power enough to get them out of their trouble? I will be very happy if you give me the power to get them out of trouble if they should happen to get into it with the whites. I wish that my Great Father should never ask me to assist in his troubles— I mean fighting other people, and with other nations. I have made up my mind not to have any trouble with the whites, or fight with the whites. We have only one enemy the Sioux and we will still have the right whenever we want, to fight with our enemies. My friends would like to hear an answer to the demands I have just made.

Cont. The Superintendent Mr. Thompson, will answer these questions.

Mr. Thompson. Say to him that I am glad to hear that he came here to do business, and to do it promptly. When his business is done here and he is ready to go home, he shall have a copy of the Treaty that he asks for— His request shall be granted

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Our great Father and his children, the white people, generally acknowledge that the Chippewas have always been friends with the whites— as long as we can recollect. Our great Father looks upon them as one branch of his family— that he always feels lenient towards them— although some of their young men have sometimes been unruly and acted badly. He and his people have come down here to ask their great Father to take pity upon them. Their great Father has looked upon them with pity, he recollected they had not taken the scalps of any of the white children, and allured them to make a better treaty than any other band of Indians has made. In making this treaty their great Father does not want them to understand that he has paid them more than what their lands are worth. He proposes to pay them a good deal more than perhaps in strict justice they ought to have— but they have come here as friends, and he wishes to send them home with their hearts glad. That he may go home and

explain to their young men, when he meets them, that he came down here and was met as a friend because they had always been friends to the whites. Our great Father would like them to preserve peace with their neighboring tribes - that they should not go to war, one with the other. They will hereafter be separated a long distance from the Sioux, and it is not likely they will have any necesity for making the war they speak of. Their great Father will never compel them to go and fight for him as against the whites or any other parties. He has white soldiers enough - as numerous as the leaves of the trees you can hardly count them. He will be recognized as a head chief when he signs this treaty. He shall have a certificate to carry home with him showing that he has been recognized as the head chief of the Chippewas. He shall have a medal to show that he enjoys the confidence of his great Father. He shall have a flag

also to carry home with him. As regards recognizing his two brothers as chiefs that is a matter that will require some consideration. A chief without a band would not be good neither for the chief nor for the Indians. That matter should be left until the agents visit the country, when they they can ascertain what kind of men they are. In the mean time they will stand high in favor as being his brothers — he being a great chief. He asked me one question that it is very hard for me to answer. — whether the chief should have the power to get his young men out of trouble in case they get into trouble. He asks for a power which I do not possess. It would depend upon circumstances. What he means by getting into trouble I do not understand — without it is committing some offenses against the whites, or against his neighbors. Our great Father makes certain laws

by which he governs all and if they murder or commit such outrages it is not in the power of any one to pardon but the great Father. But there is no danger of them getting into trouble. He can rest assured that after making this treaty he will be less liable to get into difficulty for there will be a greater feeling of friendship existing — he feels they promise to keep the peace and to act well. Their liability to get into trouble with the whites will be less after it is understood that they have made the treaty. The great Father will extend his protection over them — to keep them from harm as well as he does to keep his white children from harm, and as long as they will obey their great Father there can be no difficulty. But he must recollect, at the same time while he states he has nine young men he cannot govern but he has his great Father

they sometimes do wrong when he cannot see them, and cannot find it out in time to punish or prevent them. I believe I have answered all his questions as far as the young men he speaks of are concerned they shall be permitted to be present at his council. It may be next year before we can get medals made for them. We have not got enough of them now. It requires a great deal of pure silver and a great deal of engraving to get them up.

May due quo no wind. The medal has been offered to me a great many times but I never would accept it until we had an understanding with the Great Father. Some of them have received several of them but myself and brothers never have received any. I would like to have one additional and two for my brothers. Will I have to sign first?

Thompson. You are the great chief and we want your signature to start with.

Chief— I would like to know where the $5000.00 is to come from that is to be expended for my benefit

Thompson. It comes out of the fund appropriated— not from his annuities.

Chief. We have never injured a steamboat on the Red river. I went with 30 men to Pembina and received presents— $50.00 worth from the hands on the boat. We have a memorandum of what we received.

Thompson. This will be investigated, nothing more will be paid than what is allowed to them.

Chief. We asked that we should be paid for taking goods through our country, and received fifty three packages

Thompson. Because he has come down and extended the hand of friendship to his great Father, he has

forgive them and will not punish them. All that they did whatever it may be, is paid by this Great Father, and not by them.

Mous-O-mo. When I left home I did not come down here to ask anything from my Great Father. I simply came down to see him, but after we got down here, and met you in this office I heard that my Great Father was willing to do something more than we had got in that Treaty that was made last fall in our country. This is the reason why I did not get up to speak. I did not intend to make any demands. I left it to those that have come down for that purpose to talk. I do not want to hurt the feelings of any white man. I never want to trouble any white person. I never did. It is a fact that I did not fairly understand the

Treaty that was made last fall. On that account I demanded the commissioners that I should be permitted to visit my Great Father, to have a better explanation, and the reason why we are down here is through my demands. I have not a great deal to talk about. I did my business with the commissioners last fall. I am very glad that our Great Father has kind feelings toward his red children — that he is willing to give us more than what was agreed to last fall. I am very happy that we are going to get more so that I can go home satisfied. I am ready now to sign the Treaty. There is one thing I would like I want to make a distribution of the money myself. I want to state who ought to be paid. It has been a good while since I have been trying to call you my father but things have been in such a way that we never could come to an understanding until now. I will be very

happy to call you my Great Father. I would like to know when we can get the money, and how we are to get it.

Thompson. The Great Father sends out an agent to see and counsel with him and his chiefs, to say who the money shall be paid to.

Ase-ne-wab. I have a few words to say also. It is a good while since I first heard the voice of my Great Father. I am very glad that we have come to an understanding. I do not think there will be any more misunderstanding. All the promises we get from our Great Father we expect will be carried out. I know what promises are made we will receive. We know that this is the highest place. I want a copy of the treaty myself — so that I can keep it. Perhaps sometime there may be something we may not receive — then we can see by

having the copy. We can tell them what sum of money we ought to receive every year. I would like to have a statement made how much goods we are going to receive — how many blankets, and how many of other kind of goods that we are going to receive every year. We are now willing to sign the treaty and go home happy. I would like my children to be dressed like you white people, and to live like you do. What I mean is I want a person, a priest or a minister to come and teach us. I am very glad to meet the commissioners this last fall and I am also glad that I have come to talk before my Great Father. I cannot speak for my young men. They may do something wrong against your white people but it will not be my fault. You know your children are not all good children — some of them are bad people. My father made the same

demand now that I made last fall—
we do not want any house to be
brought into our country. We do
not want any prison within our
reservation. We do not like to have
the bad tree planted in our coun-
try. If my children should hurt
any of your white children we
wished rather pay something for
that injury than have them pun-
ished on the bad tree. And also
if your white children injure
us we would rather you should
pay us something than to have
them punished of the bad tree.
I was instructed by my people
to make such a demand last
fall—and I make it again.
Another thing—we never promised
that we should hunt over the
country that we have just ceu-
ceded to our Great Father. I
would like to have an answer to
these demands on paper, so
that I can show it to the people
of my country. My father you
have talked about committing

depredations. I do not know that we ever did. I never took any part in it. When we made a demand last fall we demanded that we should have the say how this money should be paid out, and who it ought to be paid to. There are several here who have been trading against us, and some behind that are not present. I would like to be the person to say how much each ought to receive. I do not ask for a medal for myself. There is living on the verge of De Sale near us some braves, who I would like you to recognize as such — it would please me very much if you could do so. But for my part I do not demand anything for myself. I would like to hear an answer to the demands that I have been making.

Thompson. As soon as this Treaty is ratified by the great council it will be printed in pamphlet form. Then we can give him a

copy and he will therefrid every dollar that they are to receive each year. It also states what they shall receive in blankets and goods and all of that. That Treaty. We cannot have written copies made of this Treaty for each of the chiefs— It requires too much labor— but we will send them printed copies when they are printed. We have not medals enough now to go all around. We have only got five or six. Another year we can make some more and they shall have some, concerning the bad Tree and the bad house, we hope they will never make it necessary to have them after they have signed this Treaty. That they will never stain their hands with the blood of the Whites. There is no use for the bad tree that he speaks of. If we never take mens lives. Our laws are fixed as regards taking the life of another. By no means escape if he takes the life of one

of the Great Father's white children,
all the money in our Great Father's
Treasury would not buy me clear
if I took the life of any of this chil-
dren unless it was in open
warfare. I want to tell him how
it is because if I were to promise
him this I could not carry it out.
He will be treated just as well
as the white children are fed-
ly as well. Probably some mission-
aries will soon go there. I do not
know now who they will be. They
will have a Interpreter there who
will show them how to and as-
sist them in raising their corn
and how to build houses, such as
we have. They will have goods
brought for them and can live
as white people if they choose
to do so — this will require
work on their part.

Young Bravo.

I met the commissioners last
fall at the Treaty ground. I got
a certificate and they said I
should be recognized as a chief

that I should talk in council and that I should also receive a medal from the commissioner. I received them. I am glad the chiefs have accomplished what they wanted. I want to talk about going home. I am very glad we have come to an understanding. I shall go home happy and our people will be glad. When we get through ~~the~~ riding in the cars we should like to have wagons, so that we wont have to foot the rest of the way home from where the Iron Horse stops.

May dua gue no mind. Of the $20.000 that is mentioned for us I want some of it to buy things with on the way home, presents &c.

Thompson. He shall have some part of it in his own hand.

Chief — If I have said anything to displease the Great Father I did not mean it. I am ready to sign the Treaty. I ask you

will I hear the prayer when I ask for anything to have it granted.

Thompson. When he makes a request it will be considered and if it is reasonable it will be granted. His great Father will always look with pity upon him and his demands. He cannot tell whether he will always grant it.

After some further delay the chiefs signed the treaty.