

Appendix 3B

Treaty Commissioner Robert Stuart's Remarks of November 19, 1842

Detroit November 19th 1842

Hon: T. Hartley Crawford

Com: Indian Affairs

Sir:

My anxiety to transmit to you the Supt.^{cy} a/c.^s and annual report in due season, must plead my apology for the delay in forwarding the Treaty concluded with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and Lake Superior at La Pointe, on 4th October last; the claims are now adjusted and I have the honor to enclose herewith the Treaty complete; which I trust will be satisfactory to the Department. The whole amt. of claims laid in, amounted to \$244.331 21/100 — and for a time, it was doubtful whether at least \$100.000 for debts, and \$50.000 for half breeds, would not be insisted upon; but ultimately \$75.000 for debts only, was agreed to, and the Indian annuities were somewhat increased, so as to enable them annually, to aid their poor half breed relatives. It is unnecessary to trouble you with further details, as you understand the advantages of the Treaty as regards both our country and the Indians; besides, the whole subject was discussed pretty fully in my late Report.—

These Indians are through our late efforts, entirely reconciled among themselves, and highly delighted with the kind and generous dealing of the Government toward them; and if the impression made this summer, should be followed up next season, by the benevolent effort on the part of the Government, to mediate a Treaty of peace between the Chippewas {0196} and Sioux, it would promote the cause of humanity, and greatly advance the civilization and happiness of these hapless beings. There will not in my opinion, be much difficulty in accomplishing this object, if you appoint men who have influence with the Indians. Both Tribes should be made fully to understand, that the very first aggressor shall be severely punished; and full faith should be kept in this as well as in every other respect; for at present, both the threats and promises of the Government, are treated with incredulity, at least— If the Government, (as many think,) is in honor and duty bound to use its best endeavors, to put a stop to the horrible carnage which these Tribes are continually committing upon each other; permit me to suggest, that it might be well, soon to issue orders to the Agent of St. Peters, to notify all his bands of Sioux, to assemble there, about the 1st of July next.— And the Sub Agent at La Pointe, should have similar instructions, as relates to all his Chippewas; so that they also may be at Fort Snelling on 1st July. The Chiefs, Head Men and Braves only, need be called, and \$6000 might defray the whole expenses.—

The Flat Mouth, Chief of the Chippewas of the Leech Lake Country, with about 60 of his Warriors, came to visit me at La Pointe — his main object was to complain,

that his people are not protected from the incursions of the British Half breeds, of Red River, who every summer hunt and drive the Buffalo away from his lands—

I promised to represent the case to you, but need not enlarge, as the subject was fully brought before the Sect^y. of War in my communications last winter, at Washington— I was then sorry that M^r. Nicollets views seemed to prevail, for I know that a serious injury is thereby inflicted on our frontier Indians, and our influence over them in consequence, greatly diminished — if you deem it advisable, please to urge the subject once more on the notice of the Sect^y. of War.—

I have not yet received the funds for the 3rd and 4th qrs. of this year; if not sent before this reaches you, please to procure these in N. York, if practicable, for our navigation of the Upper Lakes is now nearly closed, and it would cost too much to send by land, either to Chicago, or Milwaukie.—

Have the goodness also to remit me \$1500, contingent fund, as we are considerably in arrears under this head.

Enclosed herewith, are two diagrams of the country treated for &c:— that on wrapping paper, was made by a Half Breed at La Pointe, and is the more accurate of the two — with the boundary of the Treaty, is also traced on it, the boundary of the country reserved as the common property and home of the Indians party to the treaty, whenever they may be required to remove from their present residence.——

I am respectfully Sir

Your Obt: servant

Robert Stuart {0197}