

SEG00483

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Henry R. Schoolcraft to Lewis Cass, 7/18/1836.

Superintendency of Michigan
Agency Office
Michilimackinac July 18th 1836

Hon Lewis Cass
Secretary of War
Washington.

Sir

I have the honor herein to enclose to you, articles of assent to the Senate's amendments of the treaty of the 28th of March last, concluded in a general council of the Chippewa and Ottawa chiefs convened at this agency on the 12th - 14th - 15th and 16th instant. The cession of the reservations at the Expiration of five years has been strenuously opposed by a part of the chiefs, but has finally yielded, on a consideration of the practical operation of the provision, contained in the 13th article of the Treaty, which secures to them indefinitely, the right of hunting on the lands ceded, with the other usual privileges of occupancy, until the land is required for settlement. No objection was made to the consideration offered for the reservations, under the condition of the interest's being annually paid.

The withdrawal by the Senate, of the choice of a permanent location for the two tribes, at the period of their leaving the lands, has been made the subject of a memorial to the President, which is herewith forwarded. The memorial embraces the principal men of the two tribes, and may be considered as the expression of their united sentiments on the subject.

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I beg leave to suggest, that the lateness of the season renders it desirable that the treaty should be carried into effect, as early as practicable. The goods cannot probably be delivered until the 1st of September, at which time, it will be desirable that the annuities for the present year should also be paid. It is found that the Indians of Grand river use only log canoes, and cannot perform the necessary journey along the open lake to this place, which furnishes a just claim for their being paid the sum due to their numbers at that River. The necessary census of the whole population is in process of preparations.

I have commenced recording the claims for debt against the Indians, the Examination of which will be conducted according to such instructions as may be given. It is proposed a council of the chiefs be summoned for final action upon them. It is believed that \$200,000 will cover the whole amount of just debts, and it is suggested that this amount of the fund, may be deposited in the Bank of Michigan, subject to the order of the chiefs of the two tribes, affixed in open council to a consolidated abstract of all the admitted claims, certified by the agent.

The claimants under the 6th article are desirous that an early action should be had upon their claims. I have prepared a list of all the claimants, which will facilitate the examination of their respective claims.

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The sum of \$30,000, payable to the Chiefs, was promised to them, on the ratification of the treaty, and may require special instructions preparatory to its payment.

The funds set apart for education, missions, agriculture, and other objects, in which the voice of the tribes should direct, being considerable, it is desirable, so far as my opinion may be locally circulated, that the

department should, at an early time, direct the mode in which applications for either of these funds should be made.

I have the honor to be Sir
Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servant.

Henry R. Schoolcraft