

HRA001805

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[Center of Tri-fold]

O.I.A. Mich. Supt. S027

Henry R. Schoolcraft
Detroit. March 1st. 1838

Suggests that initial movements towards the removal of the Otta. & Chips. be directed.

Thinks an exploring party to visit the country west, might be formed early in the spring, & would report favorable; & a small emig. Party enrolled in 1839, or 1840.

Thinks a Supt. of the Emig. not now called for; but an Agt. with one or two Asst. & two interpreters would be sufficient.

Recommends James L. Schoolcraft, to be Emig. Agent

Recd 13 March 1838.

Approved
T. Cooper
[illegible]

[Right side of Tri-fold]

S794 - May 3, 1838
Indian Office

[Left side of Tri-fold]

Ansd 11 May '38
See letter to J. S. Schoolcraft, May 6 Bush & 2nd Garland of same date.

[Page 2]

Superintendency Indian Affairs
Detroit March 1st 1838

Sir,

I beg leave to call your attention, as the season for action advances, to the propriety of directing an initial movement towards the removal of the Ottowas and Chippewas of

Michigan. It is believed that the proposition would now be listened to by them, and that an exploring party might be formed early in the spring to view the country south of the Missouri. Were such a party properly selected, and led into the country at the time that the herbage first appears to cover the western praries [sic], I do not doubt, but a favourable report might be expected from them, and a small emigrating party enrolled in 1839, or at the farthest 1840. As the country ceded by them is large, and they are strongly attached to customs peculiar to their mode of subsistence, in part, on the Lake fish, and of travelling in canoes, it is not expected that they will feel a general wish to emigrate immediately, but on the contrary, will wait, as most of the western and southern tribes have done, till [sic] they are pressed to action by imperious necessity. Still the time seems appropriate to begin the movement, and it has been

[Page 3]

particularly pressed on my notice, during the fall and winter, by the situation of the Grand River Indians, who are, to some extent, in a restless, and suffering state. I need not stop to dwell on the particular causes of this, as they are common to all our bands, who, having completely ceded their lands, and agreed to remove from them, still linger in their ancient settlements, after the arrival of a white population.

A Superintendent for this branch of emigration will probably be required, at a future day, but is not now called for. An Agent, with one or two assistants and two interpreters, would, I apprehend, answer every requirement for the present year. And I would cheerfully superadd the offer of any general aid in organizing the party, which my other duties will permit, while I am passing the season in the upper country. I forward no estimates for this service not being minutely conversant with it, and being satisfied, at the same time, that accurate data are within your reach.

Should the department approve the object, I take the liberty to suggest the name of James L. Schoolcraft of this city as emigrating Agent. He has resided several years in the upper lakes, and is favourably known to the Indians, and would, in my judgment, execute the duties with precision,

[Page 4]

and usefulness to the public.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your obt. Servant
Henry R. Schoolcraft
Actg. Supt.

C.A. Harris Esqr
Commissioner Indian Affairs
War Department

Washington