

(Pr. du. Chm. Oct. 22. 1836)

Journal of Council, of  
Gov. Dodge. Wis., { Near Fort  
Winebago.  
& } Wis.  
Winebagos. } 1836.

(No treaty made)

Journal of a Council begun and held  
on the north bank of the Wisconsin, near Fort  
Minnetonka, by His Excellency Gov Fl. Dodge  
Commissioner on the part of the United States,  
and the Chiefs, Head Men, & warriors of the Minnetonka  
nation of Indians

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1836 - The Commissioner having appointed  
G. D. Kingbury Secretary, and employed Peter  
Paquette & Antoine Grignon interpreters, met the  
Indians in council agreeably to previous appoint-  
ment - The enginee of the principal Chief &  
Head men were present, and requested them to  
select one of their Chiefs as Speaker, who was to  
address the Commissioners on behalf of the Indians.

Aft a short consultation among themselves  
Car-a-ma-nu one of their principle Chiefs  
said - "I am one of the sons of the  
principal Chief of the Minnetonka nation, who  
was brought up by myself - My nephew Macon-  
de-can-ee will be our orator on this occasion."

The commission then asked them if they had  
any objection to make against Macon-de-can-ee

at their speaker - No objections were made, he then informed them that he would meet them the next morning, as one of their principal Chiefs the Black Wolf was absent when he wished all the principal Chiefs, Head men, & warriors to be present, so he had something to communicate to them from their great Father the President of the United States - They are all desirous to cross over to the North side of the Mississippi river, when provision would be issued to them

The council then adjourned until to morrow morning at 10 o'clock

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> The principal Chiefs, Head men & warriors having collected together, the consumption amounted them as follows.

"Chiefs, Head men, & warriors of the  
Minneconjou nation of Indians

"Your great Father the President of the United States, has sent me to see you, and take you by the hand in friendship. He has the welfare of all his red children greatly at heart - his wish is to make them all prosperous & happy - Your great father the President of the United States wished to provide you a country west of the Mississippi and south of the Missouri river, where you will not be disturbed by the whites.

The country proposed to you is rich as to the fertility of its soil, is much more mild in its climate than the country you now occupy, much better adapted to the culture of corn, and it will be near the Buffalo. You will be located near your red brothers who are friendly disposed, and you will also be under the immediate protection of your great father the President of the United States, who will keep mounted troops ranging the country, ready to prevent any intrusions on your rights, either by the Indians or white people. I propose to you to purchase the country you now occupy, and your remove south of the Missouri River - I will stipulate on the part of the United States, that a country sufficiently extensive shall be apportioned to the Minneconjou Indians, in proportion to their numbers, the location and extent of the country set apart for you will, to be regulated by your great father the President of the United States."

It is not the value of your country that is considered by your great father, so great an object it is your future and lasting happiness, and the great regard he has to promote the best interests of his red children generally, this has induced him to make this proposition to you. Should you not be disposed to sell your

which country to the United States. I wish you to determine what part you will take, when situated, and what are your terms of sale.

The Commissioners have desired them to consult among themselves, and their friends, and to give him an answer as soon as they can determine what they would do - The Indians will however be hasten them in their deliberations.

Mr. con-doo-cause who has been selected as Speaker replied - Father you know my situation - I am the same man that I have hitherto been - I am about to say a few words to you, but it does not come from me, it comes from my chief - it is what they & our young men have caused me to say to you - We understood from you yesterday, that we were to meet here to day and we are here - Let me have just one leave from you in case consider upon anti tomorrow morning, when we will give you an answer. Our own chief will be here to day and we will consult with him upon your proposition - Tomorrow we will meet together and talk over the matter - We wish to make short work of it, as the small pox is among us, and we wish to scatter as soon as possible

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there are still many among us who do not yet feel effects of the disease destroying so many as it has done this summer - What you have said to us we know to be the wish of our great father. Some years since several of our chiefs visited our great father at Washington, and we have not forgotten what he said to us - When we went to see our great father he presented his hand to us and said he pitied us, and would do some thing for us; we have not forgotten that yet - Our great father the President told us that what he said was true, as true as the word of our Great Maker - He told us that he could kindle upon fire so that the plague should break up to our Great Spirit.

The Commissioners - I am pleased to see the Prairie dogs conduct themselves so well - They have been very orderly in their deportment - I regret that the small pox has broken out among you; on this account we should conclude the council as soon as possible - The Interpreter will distribute provisions among you, and I hope to see you all together with the Black river Indians to-morrow morning - I have a talk to make to these Indians and I will them all to be here.

The council adjourned until to-morrow morning

October 14<sup>th</sup> - The Commission again met the Indians in council agreedly to adjournment and said - "I am happy to see so many of you collected together - It is the wish of your great father when treaties are made with his red children, that at many of them should be collected together as possible, in order that every thing should be distinctly understood by the whole nation - I have met you here to day to hear what reply you have to make to my proposition of yesterday, as to the sale of your land, the extent of country you are willing to sell, and the price you will ask for it - I understand that Macondo-carri is your speaker, if he still continues so I will hear what he has to say."

Macondo-carri then said - "Father I said to you yesterday that when we were ready to give you an answer we would all meet here. Yesterday we heard from you what the will of our great father was, but we were not prepared to give you an answer - You know our situation, and that it takes us some time to consider upon matters of this sort - We have leave my father speak before, and I suppose you see a great differ in between that time and this, but you

know the cause of it - We understand from you that you would give us time to consider, but we had not time yesterday, and we wish you to give us a longer time. Some of our people have been absent, but they will all be here to day and we will consult together - We know most of all the wish of our great father, we know what he has said to us before, and I hope our great father has set one word - Our great father the President told us his word was as good as the word of our Great Maker - That is all I have to say to day, we wish to meet together with some of our friends the traders and consult."

The Commission - "I have listened attentively to the words of your speaker - I have no wish to hasten you into any contract without giving you ample time to consult among yourselves & with your friends the traders - The weather is fair and it is desirable that we should meet to morrow morning as early as possible, at which time I shall expect a decided answer."

The Council then adjourned until to morrow morning at 10 o'clock

October 15<sup>th</sup> - The Commission again met the Indians agreedly to adjournment, and requested

of their their final audience as to the sale  
of their Land - To who Ma-con-de-carri the  
Speaker said O Father we have given our hands  
to you and all the Chiefs have no doubt that  
you can sent by our great father the President,  
and I think you will be satisfied that what  
I say is the truth - We have heard our father  
say before that his word is but one, and we have  
not forgotten it yet. I hope that what the  
Chiefs have told me to say to you is nothing  
but the truth - My chief has invited me to say  
to you that we are all torn and ruined on  
the land we now live upon; all the white men  
know this to be the fact - Ever since the white  
landed upon our shores, you know the course  
they have pursued towards us - The chiefs and  
young men think they ought to speak the  
truth over themselves, as they have suffered this  
great father to speak the truth heretofore - It  
was seldom that we made use of the name of  
our Great Maker, but since the whites have come  
among us we have been obliged to make use  
of it every year - We do not know what will  
become of us we are getting frightened - We  
know that what you have said to us is not

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from yourself but from our great father - At  
that time when we heard he wanted a tract of  
Land of us, and that he would build a fence so  
that no white man should get over it, or cross  
through it - All our chiefs and forefathers have  
died upon the land we are now living upon;  
many of our people died here last summer;  
their bones are buried here, and it seems hard for  
us to leave them - Several of our chiefs went  
to see our great father - I went with them to  
see our Father - We handed our hand to him  
as we would to our Great Maker, and he  
gave his hand and heart to us. & said he  
pitied our condition - I will tell you what  
our great father said to us - He told us that  
our father had come across the great water to  
protect us upon the Island we were on - He  
understood him to say that two or three persons  
could not talk together without making use  
of the name of our Great Maker, and he did  
so, that his words might remain good and  
strong - He understood him to say that it  
we could grant him his wishes, that poor  
should take place between us, and that no

bad fire should come to our ears, and the sky  
should remain clear over our hearts - He too  
can a manner that he would build up the fire  
in our land, and they should last as long as  
heaven and earth, and he called upon the Great  
Maker to witness the truth of his words. The  
last time we met our great father, he tried as  
to explain his words to our people, that  
they might remain at peace, and he would  
not listen to any bad story he might hear about  
us, and he hoped we would do the same with  
regard to him - Our great father knows very  
well the boundary he had given us - He wished  
us to let him have this piece of land, to keep  
peace between us and the white, but it seems  
the white can go, the more we are off - the  
white keep following us up - The tract of  
land we let him have last, if he has paid  
us the full value of, would have taken him  
a long time to have paid for it - That you know  
yourself - I did not hear him say myself  
that he wanted to buy the country, but some  
of our people men tell me that he said  
he did not wish to purchase our country with -  
out giving a good price for it - That he would

take it and give at the money, that he might  
buy goods when we wanted - You know farre  
better than I do, the promise that was made to  
us by our great father - You said that we  
would be protected by the white - this has been  
promised to us before, but it has never been ful-  
filled - What I am about to say is in reply  
to your father - We cannot conclude to go across  
the Missouri River - The white has not been coashed  
off me yet - My brothers have bloodied me all over,  
and it will be still worse if we go across the  
Missouri - Father if you had been here as  
I have been, you never would have forgotten it;  
I have had my whole family killed around me,  
and have not had satisfaction for it yet - As soon  
as you left this country they treated me in this  
manner - I heard from you the last time we met  
together, that the Iro & Foxes had behaved so badly  
that you could drive them across the Mississippi; but  
I did not know that it was us, you wanted to drive  
over, until I heard it from you - When we met  
him the other day, you told us to appoint a spea-  
ker, and I was appointed, and I have spoken for  
my people until just now, when I said a few  
words for myself - The country we now live  
upon was never occupied by the white. They cannot

Say that they have a right to it. They even obliged  
to cross the great water before they could reach our  
country - This is the land of our forefathers - the  
land where we have the first recollection of be-  
coming a nation; and we cannot consent to leave  
it and go South of the Mississippi to live among  
nations that we are entirely unacquainted with.

The first white people that came among us  
were French, and they only came to buy furs. Many  
of them are still remaining among us, and none of  
the chief result of the French coming to buy  
lands - They came for another purpose than to buy  
our furs - Next we had the English. They done  
the same - They never proposed buying our lands  
or any thing else but our furs - I recollect the  
time the English were in our country, but I do  
not recollect of them ever proposing to buy any  
of our land at all - We have met here for several  
days, and have not done much, but what we  
have done I hope our great father will see - He  
told us we might live upon our own land,  
raise our children, and become a nation once more.

I hope our great father will not think hard  
of us - We had one tract of land which did not  
serve us so well as this, and we sold it; but we  
did not tell our great father we would  
sell the country, not a foot of it, or a span of ground

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We have been told that our country is not good.  
What did our great father want to buy it for if  
it is not good? - All our principle men have died  
upon it, and we wish to remain here - I do not  
believe there is a man, white or red that can  
say he owns the world - It was our Great  
Mother that made it and he alone is the  
Master of it - I hope our great father will  
hear every thing that has been said upon this  
subject; and it is the wish of our warriors,  
young men, and children that he would let  
us remain in peace,

The Commission - "I have listened attentively  
to what your Speaker has said - Your great  
father does not wish to force you from your  
country against your will - It is his desire  
that you should become a happy people - He  
knows that the Minneconjous are weak, and  
he does not wish to trapp up upon their rights;  
but his desire is, to place them in a situation when  
he can protect them against the friends of the  
bad men among the whites, as well as against  
their enemies - When he made the treaty at  
Rock Island, by his commissair Gen Scott.

the Menomonee nation was fully represented by her chiefs, head men, and warriors - They then agreed to sell the country south of the Wisconsin river - You then entered into a solemn treaty with the United States, which was signed by your chiefs, and warriors - According to the terms of that treaty you agreed to leave the lands ceded to the United States, and cross the Wisconsin the next summer. Yet in violation of the express stipulations of that treaty, you have remained there ever since - The Menomonee chiefs north of the Wisconsin are as much bound to see this treaty carried into effect as the other chiefs, as they are all parties to it. Your great father had a right to withhold your annuity in as much as you have failed to comply with your treaty stipulations - The object your great father had in forsaking this country was to keep peace between his whites and red children - He knew that a portion of the Menomonees had joined the Sac & Foxes in the war against the whites, and his wish was, not to punish good men for the faults of the bad - Constant complaint are made against the Rock River Indians - They are accused of stealing hogs and cattle, and of plundering goods - The wish of your great father is to remove you from

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the vicinity of the whites, that you may not come in contact with them, and bring on a war which would be destructive to you white nation.

The time has now arrived when you must leave the country south of the Wisconsin and not return to it - The annuity for the Rock River Indians has been withheld from them, because they had refused to cross the river, and it will not be paid to them until they do cross, and should they return it will be my duty to have them put at a cross - I am friendly to the Menomonees, all of them, and consider them as my children, and they have a right to expect my friendship and protection. But they must not violate the rights of others by stealing and plundering their property - As to the sale of your country your just father does not wish to force you into any measure against your consent - his wish is to treat you with the kindness and protection of a great father - Your annuity money has not been paid you as soon as I could wish - Unavoidable delay has prevented it from reaching the Post - but I have learnt that it is now at St Louis & will soon be here - I will use my best endeavours to have your annuity paid to you earlier hereafter, in order that you may start upon your summer hunt - I see that you are in a miserable condition,

that you are poor & in want of your money, and  
I am fearful that you always will be in want  
as long as you remain about the Portage, and exchange  
your money and goods for whiskey - I believe the  
country best suited to your wants is the country east  
of the Mississippi - You could then be in a country of  
game, where you could obtain furs - you could also  
be out of the reach of the white, and could provide  
for your women & children - As soon as your an-  
nuity arrives you will be informed by your Agent  
Major Green who will superintend the payment

The Council thus adjourned done die

G. P. Kingbury  
Secretary