all of their territory except such a Reservation as may be necessary for their own use, it may be better to purchase it, if the cession can be obtained on reasonable terms.” Ramsey’s instructions were not to base the consideration “on the imaginary value of the land, or the acquisition of a right of way, but upon the present necessities of the weaker and their improvement in the future.” The ultimate decision within the guide of that instruction was left to Ramsey.

While Ramsey was also instructed to deal with and pacify the Mississippi Chippewas, who were dissatisfied with their treaty of March 11, 1863, it appears that nothing was done on this matter.

For a log of Ramsey’s trip from Saint Paul to the treaty site and for a vivid description of what took place at the time of the treaty signing I shall quote from that eminent Minnesota historian, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, Dean of the Graduate School University of Minnesota. Dean Blegen, Superintendent of the Minnesota State Historical Society in 1933, gave the Dedicatory Address at the “Old Crossing” Treaty Memorial on June 25 of that year. He said in part, “Fortunately the Minnesota Historical Society has been collecting and preserving historical records ever since 1849, and I think you would be interested to know that among the thousands of historical treasures is a little notebook in which Alexander Ramsey recorded in his own hand, day by day, his journey to this spot in 1863 and the negotiations which took place. With this old diary and some other early records, I want to place before you something of that scene from 1863.

“Ramsey requested General Sibley for an escort of two companies of mounted men and a section of mountain howitzers before he set out from St. Paul September 2, 1863, for the treaty site; and in his official report he states that Sibley, then returning from his expedition against the Sioux, promptly obliged him. All supplies for the trip, including oats for the horses and mules and food for the Indians to be met at the Old Crossing, had to be transported with the Ramsey party. On September 3, Ramsey wrote the Indian Commissioner from St. Cloud that the sum of six thousand dollars allowed for the expense of completing the treaty would not be sufficient, and that he would have to draw several thousands more. In Ramsey’s diary we can follow the expedition westward to Fort Abercrombie and then northward and northeastward. Its members went on foot, in wagons and on horseback, and they were accompanied by livestock (beef on the hoof) for use on the way and at the meeting ground. Ramsey had a carriage for his own use, but occasionally he would take to the saddle.

“The diary records such items as the crossing of a small river a bridge had to be built and time was required to guide the heavy teams and wagons down the steep banks and over the stream. One night a prairie fire threatened the camp, and a large party of men were detailed to build a counter-fire for protection. The entry in Ramsey’s diary for September 21, 1863,