reads, 'Bearing northeast we marched over a level prairie and reached the crossing at 10:00 a.m., some Indians coarsing over the plains to meet us.'

"The objectives of the federal government were first, peaceful relations and a right-of-way for transporting goods and passengers through the Indian country, but it is clear that what was primarily wanted was the opening of a vast area of fertile land to settlement by means of outright cession. With Ashley C. Morrill, agent for the Chippewa, Ramsey had been designated as commissioner to negotiate with the Red Lake and Pembina Chippewa bands. When Ramsey reached the Crossing, the Red Lake Indians were there awaiting him, with Monsomo (Moose Dung), Medawagonin (He That Is Spoken To), Little Rock, Broken Arm and Leading Feather as their head. Morrill was also there, having come by way of Leech and Red Lakes.

"The next day the Pembina Indians arrived with Red Bear of Pembina and Little Chief of Turtle Mountain at their head. To Ramsey's chagrin, Charles Bottineau, who escorted the Pembina Indians to the conference, had brought not only chiefs and head men as he had been directed, but also almost the whole body of Indians and half-breeds. He later submitted a bill for eighteen hundred dollars for supplies on the journey. So instead of a small group of leaders assembled on the grounds, they were thronged with more than sixteen hundred Indians and half-breeds. As we try to picture the scene in our imaginations, we may make out the figures of some noted pioneers who wove in and out among these throngs. One is Pierre Bottineau, who well deserves to be known as the Kit Carson of the Northwest, and another is J. A. Wheelock, one of the giants of Minnesota journalism in the frontier era.

"The council met at two o'clock on the afternoon of September 23 in a large tent, Ramsey and his staff occupying one side and the Indians the other. Speeches were given a few sentences at a time, an interpreter translating as they went along. Ramsey opened the deliberation with an explanation of what the government wanted. He told the Indians that where they then saw one cart and one steamboat, in twenty years they would see a hundred, and he predicted that it would not be long before the railroad with the 'fire wagons' would reach the Northwest. Change and progress, he declared, could no more be stopped than one could stop the sun from setting. And so, picturing the terribleness of the white invasion, he offered to purchase the right of way, or, if the Indians desired, their lands. The Indians asked to be permitted to consider until the following day before making their reply.

"When the chiefs met Ramsey the next day, they declined his offer to purchase a right-of-way, as indeed he expected them to do, and they requested more time in which to consider the outright sale of their lands. The Ramsey diary details the delays and difficulties of treaty making. Then as now the Indians were