The total recited consideration in the Treaty of 1863 as modified by the supplemental Treaty of 1864 was $612,000.

The final draft of the “Old Crossing” Treaty signed at Washington had the signatures (marks) of sixteen members of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Chippewa Indians. The list of signers for the Indians include three chiefs, four headmen and six warriors from the Red Lake band, and one chief, one headman and one warrior from the Pembina band. For the records, the proper and common names of the chiefs are given while only the common names of the headmen and warriors will be listed.


FROM THE PEMBINA BAND: Principal Chief Mis-comuk-quah (Red Bear), Headman Equal Sky, and Warrior Wants Feathers.

The Treaty was signed by President Abraham Lincoln and Commissioners Clark W. Thompson and Ashley C. Morrill. The names of interpreters of significance to the area of the “Old Crossing” Treaty were Pierre Bottineau and Benjamin Dalbec, and at Washington, D. H. Beaulieu, J. G. Morrison and Peter Roy for the Indians, and T. A. Waner, Chas. E. Garden and Charles Bottineau for the United States.

Now in 1960, some ninety years after the “Old Crossing” Treaty was signed, it is difficult to correctly appraise all of the factors which brought about the conference and treaty. A study of the diaries, records and reports of the commissioners involved and others, forces one to the following conclusions:

1. The United States Government
   a. Recognized the title rights of the two bands of Chippewa Indians.
   b. Wanted free access and use of the Red River for navigation.
   c. Wanted the fertile lands of the Red River Valley opened for settlement.
   d. Was willing to bargain with the Indians for transportation and land title rights.
   e. Took the initiative to attain objectives.

2. a. There was no urgency on the part of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Chippewas to dispose of title rights.
   b. Their association with the explorers and white settlers had been peaceful.
   c. The one blot on their record occurred after the failure of the 1862 “Old Crossing Conference”, due to failure of the Commissioners to arrive and the subsequent seizure of food and provisions from an ox-cart train.

3. That fear of reprisal for the looting of the caravan and the presence of two companies of armed soldiers with a complement of howitzers expedited the signing of the treaty.

4. That the lack of knowledge of land title values on the part of the Chippewas caused them to settle for a low figure.