from the same head "to the Mississippi below the Falls of St. Anthony." He referred to the extensive wild rice fields in the Red Lake River region, and thought that large quantities of rice and maple sugar produced here might profitably be sent to market over these roads when they should be constructed.

At the time of Maj. Wood's and Capt. Pope's expedition the Territory of Minnesota had been recently organized. It embraced all the country lying to the north and west of Iowa and Wisconsin, containing about 160,000 square miles. Capt. Pope noted that of this great expanse, the country lying west of the valleys of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) and the Red River, "is still unexplored." The two officers reported that the head of navigation of the Red River was in the vicinity of the mouth of the Sioux Wood River. At the latter point they recommended the establishment of a military post; but when Fort Abercrombie was built, some nine years later, it was established several miles to the northward, on the Dakota side, nearly opposite McCauleyville. They also recommended that a post be established at Pembina and this was afterward done.

During the Civil War, Capt. John Pope became a major general in the Union Army; but after his disastrous defeat at Second Bull Run he was sent to the Northwest to conduct the military operations against the Sioux Indians during the great outbreak of 1862.

HOW POLK COUNTY WAS OBTAINED FROM THE INDIANS.

The region in which Polk County is situated was, upon the advent of civilization in this quarter, and for a long time thereafter, conceded to belong to the Chippewa (or Ojibway) tribe of Indians. The Polk County country was obtained by treaties made with them at different times by the United States authorities.

The first treaty for the cession of the country was made by the old Pillager Band of Chippewas with Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey, who was accompanied by ten other civilians, at Pembina, in the early autumn of 1851. Gov. Ramsey and party, with a military escort of 25 dragoons from Fort Snelling, left St. Paul August 18 and returned October 28. By this Pembina treaty the Chippewas ceded to the United States a tract on the lower Red River 150 miles in length by 65 miles in width, and which was fairly divided from north to south by that river. The northern boundary of the cession was the 49th parallel of latitude and the southern boundary was Goose River on the west side and Buffalo River on the east side of the Red River. The Government was to pay the Indians $30,000 cash in hand, and $10,000 a year for twenty years as the purchase price. But the U. S. Senate refused to confirm this treaty and therefore it never went into effect, to the great disappointment of both the Pembina settlers and the Pillager Chippewas. (Minn. in Three Cents. Vol. 2, p. 325.)

THE TREATY OF "THE OLD CROSSING OF THE RED LAKE RIVER."

Not until in 1863 did Congress order another treaty with the northwestern Minnesota Chippewas. This treaty was ordered held "at the old crossing of the Red Lake River." The probabilities all are that Congress meant the site of the treaty to be the crossing of the old Kittson Trail, the trail mapped by Capt. Pope, since that was the first Red River cart trail, the old trail of 1844. This crossing was near the present site of Fisher, perhaps a little to the westward. There being in 1863 two crossings of the Red Lake River, Congress particularly designated the "old" crossing as the council ground.

Yet the treaty was not held at the "old" crossing, but at the crossing of the new trail, up near the site of Huot, in Red Lake County. At the time that was the crossing best known, and probably this was the reason for its use. June 8, 1914, the people of the country celebrated the event by a large meeting at which appropriate exercises were held and an enduring monument placed in position. There is no question that this is the place where the treaty was held.