

John S. Watrous to Alexander Ramsey, 28 July 1851
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unofficial

Lapointe

July 28th 1851

Dear Gov

I write you without knowing whether you are at this time among the Sioux, at St Paul or on your way to Pembina.

I have but little cheering news to write you in regard to the removal as I have only herd from Mr Boulieau and he is meeting with many difficulties. I still think that he will surmount them and will suceed in geting a large portion there out

I have received nothing from the Chippewa River country since I arrived here. I am in hopes to get some news from this quarter within a short time and as soon as received will communicate it to you.

By information received from George Warren I am informed that Mr Rice has told the Indians not to remove and he will send a large outfit into the country this coming winter.

My first quartily returns of the removal I have forwarded to you by the way of the Lakes. I presume they will reach you before this comes to hand

There are assembled at this place about five hunard Indians and there will be by the last of next week I think 1500. Those that are here are making a desparate effort to have their monied annuity paid them at Fond Du Lac. I have refused to make it at this pointe, but have been advised to do so, by Mr Boutwell, if I became convinced that it will endanger the removal by my not granting their request, I shall do so but I must say that I cannot see the necessity of doing so when they are obliged to come to Sandy Lake after their goods annuity

I hope the Department will act upon my recommendation for a company of Infantry being stationed at this place. I am much annoyed by whiskey and although the law prohibits this traffic, the civil authorities are unable to enforce them, besides if a company were now here it would facilitate the removal very much

Pleas let me hear from you as often as convenient and believe me with high regard your friend

JS Watrous

His Excellency

Alex Ramsey }
St. Paul }

P.S. I have not yet made out the advertisement for to receive proposals for Flour and Pork to be delivered at Crow Wing as I thought it would be advisable to wait until I made the payment to the St Croix Indians when I would be able to determine better the amount that would be required

JSW