

A post-office had been established for the benefit of the garrison, agency and traders; but communication with the States by mail or otherwise was seldom and uncertain; the next nearest post-office on the south being Galena, and there being no regular contractor to carry the mail, eight weeks sometimes intervened between the arrival of the mails.

To give an idea of his duties, as well as to preserve an item of the early history of Wisconsin, I copy the first letter of instructions which he received, soon after his arrival at this place, from Gen. Street, the Indian Agent, dated July 1st, 1830:

"SIR:—You will please to remain at the lower part of the village of Prairie du Chien, until otherwise directed, and occasionally visit the quarters of Gen. Wm. Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, and receive and perform all that he may require of me as Agent, during the time I may be absent. You will particularly attend to and draw provisions for all the Winnebago Indians, except those living in the superintendency of Gen'l. Cass; and if any Winnebagoes from Rock River attend and wish you to draw them provisions and attend to them, you will do so, and report the case to me.

"If at any time a special requisition to see me is made, you will please hire some person to come immediately to my house for me. I shall be obliged to you, to copy and hand to Gen. Clark my letter on the difference between the Indians, and, if desired, a list of the principal men attending and where from, also the number of Indians and where from."

The residence of Gen'l. Street, at that time, was at the north end of the Prairie, about five miles from the fort, the usual place of doing business. These instructions therefore laid upon Mr. Burnett all the *active* duties of the agency, except when special calls for the Agent occurred; and required of him the clerking labor, and traveling to and from St. Louis, "to hand to Gen'l. Clark" the reports and returns made by the agent.

At that time, this place was entirely within the Indian country. The beautiful Prairie, seven miles long, and from two miles wide