

The Chippewas of Lake Superior

By Richard F. Morse

I.—Payment of the Chippewas (1855)

It may be remembered that the payment to the Chippewa Indians at La Pointe, in August and September, 1855, was necessarily deferred during weeks, waiting for the remote bands to come in.

The department had sent express and timely orders to persons at La Pointe, to have the Indians gathered, and to be in waiting for the Commissioner or Agent, with goods and money for the payment, as per treaty, when we arrived. The persons failed to carry out the orders.

The officers of the commission, and persons connected with the payment, must remain from the time we arrived, (11th August,) until messengers could be despatched for the bands at a distance. To Grand Portage, North Shore, and over 200 miles in the wilderness towards the Mississippi and other directions. Consequently the Indians from the interior were weeks arriving. The interval of time being occupied by the Agency in taking the census of—and in putting up packages of goods for, and distributing to, the Indians, as they arrived, and in holding councils with the chiefs in relation to affairs of unsettled business, directing in regard to the payment