

of their debts as per appropriation from Government of \$90,000 for that purpose. Many sittings and councils were held, and speeches made between those of the commissioners and the chiefs. A long time, it seemed, had transpired.

The bands from the vicinity of *Lac Court Orielle* were yet to come. Finally news of the arrival of some 200 of these Indians upon the shore of the Bay, about 12 miles from La Pointe, had the evening before reached the Commissioner, who promptly employed three or four little sail boats, the only craft at hand, to bring the Indians over.

It was at a council on the green during the forenoon, the chief, Waw-be-sha-she, was speaking, though his remarks were not very important nor pertinent to any matter before the council, and besides were somewhat prosy, and becoming tedious, when an Indian, who was not a chief, interrupted him in a declamatory manner, creating a little merriment—said he, "Why are you taking up the time of our Great Father (Commissioner Manypenny) in talking nonsense, which does no good to any one? You know our brothers are at the Bay, waiting to come over."

The chief retorted with spirit—"Are you a fool? you talk like a child. Do you think our Great Father is going to take a canoe and paddle it over the Bay to bring the Indians?" *A general and hearty laugh among the Indians.*

The day was bright and warm. It was nearly noon that the three or four little sail boats which had been despatched to fetch *these forest children* across the Bay to La Pointe hove in sight, and nearing the shore, laden almost to the water's edge with men, women and children. There was a general gathering on shore to see them as they came in.

A scene of the like poverty and abject wretchedness, we hope we may never witness again. Some of these poor creatures, especially the children, were literally naked.

They had but shreds for blankets. Birch bark baskets, and dishes the same, were their chief wares—rude and untanned