

Gov. Cass, who had come to Butte des Morts to hold a treaty with the Winnebagoes, learning from rumor that there was dissatisfaction among them, started in his canoe, and arrived at Prairie du Chien on the morning of the 4th of July. Having ordered into the service of the United States, McNair's military company, he proceeded hastily in his canoe to Galena. There he raised a volunteer company, with Abner Fields as captain, William S. Hamilton and one Smith as lieutenants, in which D. M. Parkinson was sergeant. The command of Fort Crawford was assigned by Gov. Cass to Capt. Fields, who, with his company, immediately proceeded to Prairie du Chien on a keel-boat, and took possession of the barracks. Lieut. Martin Thomas, of the U. S. army, went up and mustered the two companies of militia into the service of the government.

In a few days Col. Snelling arrived with his troops, and assumed command at Fort Crawford. He soon after discharged Capt. Fields' company; but Capt. McNair's company was retained in service until some time in the month of August.

Gov. Cass proceeded from Galena to St. Louis to confer with Gen. Atkinson, then in command of Jefferson Barracks and of the Western Military Department. This resulted in Atkinson's removing up the Mississippi with the disposable force under his command.

During this time the miners in the lead mines had organized a company of mounted volunteers, which numbered over one hundred men, well mounted and armed, and chose Col. Henry Dodge as their commander. While it was the peculiar duty of this force to protect the settlers of the lead mines against any attack of the savages, they were as ready to pursue them and give battle as to resist attack.

Red Bird and the other Winnebagoes, having, as was supposed, fled up the Wisconsin, it was the plan of Gen. Atkinson to go up that river in boats; and he also secured the co-operation of Col. Dodge and his mounted volunteers, who marched to the Wisconsin, a detachment going to Prairie du Chien, and the remainder to English Prairie (now Muscoda). This mounted force scoured both sides of the Wisconsin River from its mouth to the Portage, driving every Indian before them.