

By act of congress approved June 12, 1838, the surveyor-general of the United States was required to cause the boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan to be "surveyed, marked and designated," and the sum of \$3,000 was appropriated for the purpose. Commissioner Whitcomb of the general land office deeming the appropriation insufficient, nothing was done under this act. July 20, 1840, congress re-appropriated the sum, and gave the work in charge of the secretary of war. Captain Thomas Jefferson Cram, of the topographical engineers, was assigned the task, and in spite of the short season remaining to him after the passage of the act, made considerable progress in penetrating the absolute wilderness through which much of the boundary ran. Captain Cram made his report to the topographical bureau in December, 1840.<sup>1</sup> His reconnoissance was chiefly of the wild country between the headwaters of the Montreal and Menomonee rivers.

It will be remembered that the act erecting Wisconsin Territory thus described the northeast boundary: "Through the middle of Lake Michigan to a point in the middle of said lake and opposite the main channel of Green bay, and through said channel and Green bay to the mouth of the Menomonie river; thence through the middle of the main channel of said river to that head of said river nearest to the Lake of the Desert; thence in a direct line to the middle of said lake; thence through the middle of the main channel of Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said lake northwest."

Capt. Cram points out in his report that, from a reading of this description, it would be inferred:

"1st. That the Lake of the Desert was supposed to be a headwater of, and to discharge itself into, Montreal river.

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springs in the state, with six sections of land contiguous to each, in addition to the school and university lands, and five per cent. of the net proceeds of the sales of all public lands in the state—and also by giving to her \$382,335.31 of the money required by the act of June 23, 1836, to be deposited with the states."—See appendix to *Council Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*, 1844, p. 9.

<sup>1</sup> *Senate Docs.*, No. 151, 26th Cong., 2nd sess., vol. iv.