

"2d. That somewhere between Lake Superior and Green bay there was a known lake bearing the name of the 'Lake of the Desert.'

"3d. That all of the headwaters discharging themselves into the Menomonee river, one would be found nearer the said Lake of the Desert than any other.

"4th. That the nearest head of the Menomonee to the said lake would be found to be a branch of the Menomonee, and not a lake."

But it was ascertained by the survey that Lac Vieux Desert, wrongfully called Lake of the Desert,¹ is really the headwater of the Wisconsin river, and has no connection whatever either with the Menomonee or Montreal rivers; not even being in a line between their headwaters, but to a considerable distance northeast. "The nearest distance between the lake and the Montreal river, which takes its rise in an extensive swamp, is such that an Indian requires eight days, without a pack, to pass from one to the other. The Montreal river was found to have a course different from what was supposed; so have the courses of the Menomonee and of its principal branches been equally mistaken and misrepresented."

Captain Cram concluded that it would be exceedingly difficult to run a line between the headwaters of the Montreal and Menomonee; utterly impossible, in fact, to exactly follow the official description. He said that it would involve elaborate and expensive surveys to determine "the middle"

¹ Capt. Cram says: "The country in the vicinity of this beautiful lake is called, in Chippewa language, Katakittakon, and the lake bears the same name. On South island there is an old [Indian] potato-planting ground; hence the appellation of 'Vieux Desert,' which, in mongrel French, means 'old planting-ground.' There is more reason for calling it 'Lac Vieux Desert,' than for the appellation 'Lake of the Desert.' It is much to be regretted that the Indian names of rivers, lakes and places are so frequently changed without any reason, and in most cases for the worse." Both this report and that of the following year abound in excellent descriptions of the wilderness and its inhabitants.

On a map drawn by James Duane Doty in 1820, to accompany a report on northern Wisconsin made to Governor Lewis Cass, Lake Vieux Desert is styled "Old Plantation lake."—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii., p. 204)