

channel of the Menomonee river, down to the center of the best ship-channel of the Green bay of Lake Michigan; thence following the center of the best ship-channel of Green bay, to the middle of Lake Michigan."

In March, 1841, another reconnoissance was ordered by congress,¹ and Captain Cram was sent out to complete his task, which he did amid great hardships, his exploration lasting four months.² On the 24th of January, 1842, the senate made a request for his report, which was made to the topographical bureau February 10.³ He showed that there did "not exist in nature any continuous natural boundary—as had been supposed in the act of congress defining this boundary—between the headwaters of the Menomonee and Montreal rivers;" as for Lake Vieux Desert, it was found to be many miles northeast of a direct line drawn between the headwaters of the two rivers, so that the lake would have to be made the apex of an obtuse angle, if it were persisted in as a point in the boundary; he therefore argued strongly in favor of a straight line between Lake Brulé (the head proper of the Menomonee) and the head of the Montreal. This straight line, he said, would be sixty miles in length, while the indirect line, by way of Lake Vieux Desert, would be 100 miles and 2,199 feet. The report was accompanied by an excellent detailed map of the survey, which is still recognized as official authority.⁴

On the 16th of February, 1842, six days after the submission of Captain Cram's second report, but before it had been received by congress, Governor Doty sent in a message to the legislative assembly of "Wisconsin" Territory,⁵ upon the boundary line in question. He said:

¹ As the result of a joint resolution of the Michigan legislature, making a request therefor, approved February 2, 1841.—(*Senate Docs.*, No. 186, 26th Cong., 2nd sess., vol. iv.)

² *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv., p. 193.

³ *Senate Docs.*, No. 170, 27th Cong., 2nd sess., vol. iii.

⁴ For strictures on Captain Cram's work, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv., pp. 360-363.

⁵ Governor Doty endeavored, long and hard, to secure the adoption of this ungainly orthography. The message will be found in *House Docs.*