

Grease, but the Commissioners ought to be provided with other stores from Montreal where they can be put up in proper Packages for Canoes.

The fittest season to leave Michilimackinac would be as soon as the navigation is open, that is early in May, in order to attempt performing the service in one season, but as this would render it absolutely necessary for the Commissioners to pass the winter at that Post, it may be more proper to fix on the Summer, any time previous to the 15th September at the latest; and if they could leave it with the Traders who set out in July for the Falls of St. Anthony, or rather River St. Peters which is adjacent, they would have the benefit of their local knowledge and acquaintance with the Indians who are on their Route or in the Country proposed to be surveyed.

In leaving Michilimackinac in July or even up to the 15th September there is sufficient time to get to the St. Anthony & higher up the Mississippi, which I conceive will be necessary as shall hereafter be shewn: The voyage from Michilimackinac to the Falls may readily be performed in six weeks, but from the Falls to that part of the Mississippi from whence I conceive a Line is to be drawn to Wood Lake I am of opinion that Four Weeks more will be fully employed, for the River then becomes Rapid and Shallow; and the distance is estimated to be 300 Leagues; now if the Line is to be drawn by actual survey, as by only ascertaining the Latitude and Longitude at different Points from the sources of the Mississippi to Wood Lake I doubt much whether in one season it could be effected, supposing the Commissioners to leave Michilimackinac in May, still less could they perform the service if the survey begins at or below the Falls. To me therefore it appears that the Commissioners must of necessity pass a Winter on the Mississippi, and the best place in my opinion will be as near as conveniently can be done to that part from which they are to run the Line to Wood Lake.

There must be two good Interpreters, one for the Scioux Language and another for the Chipăwă, both of them may be procured at Michilimackinac.