

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

INDIAN TREATIES TOUCHING IOWA

The Annals of Iowa is a repository rather more than a purveyor of Iowa historical facts. It has served as a ready tool and probably will continue so to serve for a long while. It has been able so to serve largely through its publication of original articles and its re-publication of rare and fugitive pertinent materials.

The present editor of the Annals has found special pleasure in pursuing facts relating to the transfer of title and possession of lands of Iowa to the individual owner. A considerable mass of these materials has been assembled. Portions of them have been printed, and other portions are not in print, nor, so far as we know, accessible to the public. It is intended to put such information into the pages of the Annals and to make it available.

Not the least interesting of this group of materials are the minutes of the councils that were held between the United States government on the one part, and the Indian tribes occupying what is now the State of Iowa on the other part. Introducing what may become a valuable series of these materials, we present the minutes as they have been preserved of these two councils, viz: of 1841 and 1842, held at Agency City, now in Wapello County, Iowa. The deliberations of these councils ended in the treaty of October 11, 1842, which transferred to the white man the right to occupy the largest area surrendered at one time, and took from the Sacs and Foxes their last claim to their rights within the state.

WA-PEL-LO who participated in the council of 1841 died in March, 1842 and was buried on the site of the two councils. The inscription on his tomb is as follows:

“In memory of WA-PEL-LO a principal chief of the Foxes, who was born at Prairie du Chien about the year 1787, died

near the forks of the Skunk River, March 15, 1842 and here buried at his own request. This stone was erected by the Sac and Fox nation. Distinguished in early years for his valor, he was no less remarkable for kindness and beneficence toward his people, while honesty of character and strict friendship towards the white men won for him unusual regard."

Those familiar with Iowa history will note with interest that one of the statements attributed to those representing the red and white peoples was written by James W. Grimes. It is probable that he who later became one of our greatest statesmen transmitted truly the meaning of those arguments to us.

Reading then the record of the councils of 1841 and 1842, it is not difficult to sense deeply the pathos with which the "trustees" from their "Great Father" for the benefit of His red children in perpetuity fought off the surrender of these lands.

THE SAC AND FOX TREATY OF 1842

In the body of the Annals we present the minutes of the councils leading up to the treaty through which the Sac and Fox Indians surrendered their right of possession of that part of the state of Iowa bounded on the north by the Neutral Strip of 1830; on the east by the New Purchase of 1837; on the south by the state of Missouri and on the west by the Neutral Line of 1825.

It is believed the meaning of these minutes will be better understood and this issue of the Annals increased in value by the addition herewith of the text of that treaty:

TREATY WITH THE SAUK AND FOXES, 1842

Articles of a treaty made and concluded at the agency of the Sac and Fox Indians in the territory of Iowa, between the United States of America, by John Chambers their commissioner thereto specially authorized by the President, and the confederated tribes of Sac and Fox Indians represented by their chiefs, headmen and braves:

ARTICLE I

(Lands ceded to the United States.)

The confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes cede to the United States, forever, all the lands west of the Mississippi River, to which

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