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Report of the Secretary of War, in relation to the land reserved at Fort Snelling for military purposes.

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REPORT

OF

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RELATION

To the land reserved at Fort Snelling for military purposes.

APRIL 10, 1848.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 6, 1848.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 29th ultimo, requiring the Secretary of War to inform the Senate "what quantity of public land has been reserved from sale and settlement at or near Fort Snelling, on the upper Mississippi river; stating the quantity on each bank of the river so reserved; the purpose to which the lands are devoted; the amount of force at that place, averaging it for the last five years; and whether, in his opinion, the lands reserved on the east bank of the river are really necessary for any military purpose," I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report of the Quartermaster General, containing the desired information, so far as it can now be furnished; and to state that, in my opinion, the said portion of the reserve is not required for any military purpose.

Directions were given, some time since, to have prepared a list of reserves east of the Mississippi, no longer required for military purposes; and, as soon as practicable, the necessary measures will be taken to dispose of them pursuant to law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Hon. GEORGE M. DALLAS,
President of the Senate.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, April 5, 1848.

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the Senate of the 29th ultimo, referred by you to this office on the 30th, requiring information in

regard to the extent of the military reserve at Fort Snelling, on the upper Mississippi, the purpose to which the lands are devoted, the amount of force at the post, averaging it for the last five years; and whether, in the opinion of the War Department, the lands on the west coast of the river are really necessary for any military purpose, I have the honor to state, that I have no other information, in regard to the extent of the reserve, than is to be found in the provisions of a treaty with the Sioux Indians, negotiated by Lieutenant, afterwards General Z. M. Pike, and dated the 23d of September, 1805, a copy of which is enclosed, marked A. A small portion of the land is used for cultivation, and for pasturage; but the greater part of it is retained for the purpose of obtaining from it fuel and building materials for the post.

As to the amount of force, it averaged, during the five years ending December 31, 1847, one hundred and twenty-three men.

If the latter inquiry is referred to me for an opinion, I have no hesitation in replying that I consider the land on the east bank of the river entirely unnecessary for any military purpose. It is of much more importance to have a hardy population on that frontier than an extensive military reserve.

I return the resolution; and I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

The Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War, Washington city.

A.

Copy of a treaty made by Lieutenant, afterwards General Z. M. Pike, with the Sioux Indians:

Whereas, at a conference held between the United States of America and the Sioux nation of Indians, Lieutenant Z. M. Pike, of the army of the United States, and the chiefs and warriors of said tribe, have agreed to the following articles, which, when ratified and approved of by the proper authority, shall be binding on both parties.

ART. 1. That the Sioux nation grants unto the United States for the purpose of establishment of military posts, nine miles square, at the mouth of the St. Croix, also from below the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peters up the Mississippi, to include the falls of St. Anthony, extending nine miles on each side of the river, that the Sioux nation grants to the United States, the full sovereignty and power over said district forever.

ART. 2. That in consideration of the above grants, the United States shall pay, (filled up by the Senate with \$2,000.)

ART. 3. The United States promise, on their part, to permit the Sioux to pass and repass, hunt, or make other use of the said dis-

tracts as they have formerly done, without any other exception than those specified in article first.

In testimony whereof, we, the undersigned, have hereunto set our hands and seals, at the mouth of the river St. Peters, on the 23d day of September, 1805.

Z. M. PIKE, [SEAL.]

First lieutenant, and agent at the above conference.

LA PETIT CORBEAU, + [SEAL.]
his
mark.

WAY AGO ONAGEE, + [SEAL.]
his
mark.