
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, April 14, 1849.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith an appointment for you as sub Indian agent on the Sacramento and San Joachim rivers, in California, to include the Indians at or in the vicinity of those places, and any others that may hereafter be designated by this department. Your compensation will be at the rate of \$750 per annum, to be in full for pay and all emoluments whatsoever. You will execute a bond in the penal sum of \$2,000, with two or more sureties, whose sufficiency must be certified by a United States district judge or district attorney.

So little is known here of the condition and situation of the Indians in that region, that no specific instructions relative to them can be given at present: and the department relies on you to furnish it with such statistical and other information as will give a just understanding of every particular relating to them, embracing the names of the tribes; their location; the probable extent of territory owned or claimed by each respectively; the tenure by which they claim it: their manners, habits, disposition, and feelings towards the United States and whites generally, and towards each other: whether hostile or otherwise; whether the tribes speak different languages; and where different, the apparent analogies between

them ; and also what laws and regulations for their government are necessary, and how far the law regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes (a copy of which I enclose) will, if extended to that country, properly apply to the Indians there, and to the trade and intercourse with them ; and what modification, if any, will be required to produce the greatest degree of efficiency.

You are authorized to employ one or more interpreters—not exceeding more than one at the same time, unless otherwise absolutely necessary—to aid you in the discharge of your duties, whose compensation, if employed by the year, will be at the rate of \$300 per annum. It is very desirable that the greatest economy shall be observed ; and it is therefore hoped that the employment of one permanent interpreter will be sufficient, and that the services of any others will be but temporary, and for as short periods as possible consistent with a proper discharge of your duties.

You will report direct to this office, and will lose no opportunity of doing so, as it is extremely desirable that the department be kept well advised of the state of affairs in that region.

It is possible you will wish to avail yourself of the military escort about to leave St. Louis, and funds will therefore be placed in the hands of the superintendent at that place, to be turned over to you as follows :

One year's salary for self	-	-	-	-	-	\$750
One year's salary for interpreter	-	-	-	-	-	300
Pay of interpreter temporarily employed	-	-	-	-	-	100
Contingent expenses, including presents to Indians ; purchase of two horses for yourself and your interpreter ; collection of statistical information ; forage for horses ; house rent, fuel, stationery, &c., together with your travelling expenses	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
						<hr/> 2,350 <hr/>

You are authorized to purchase two horses, one for yourself and one for your interpreter, for which you will be held accountable as public property. In making presents to Indians, you will be as economical as possible, and confine yourself to such cases only as will effect some important object. It is supposed that there are captives or prisoners—either Mexicans or Americans—among some of the Indians of California or New Mexico. If you should find such to be the case among the Indians of your sub-agency, you will demand and endeavor to procure their release and surrender, whether Americans or Mexicans ; but it must, if possible, be done without any compensation whatever, as to make compensation would but encourage a continuance of the practice of making captives ; and any demand must be made under circumstances not calculated to produce mischief or hostile feelings on the part of the Indians.

I enclose blank forms to guide you in rendering your accounts, which must be done quarter-yearly, or as nearly so as possible. In rendering your accounts, you will account for the money placed in your hands under the following heads of appropriation, viz :

Pay of sub-agents	-	-	-	-	-	\$750
Pay of interpreters	-	-	-	-	-	400
Contingencies Indian department	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
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I also herewith enclose a copy of the late treaty with Mexico; and also copies of the reports of Messrs. Frémont, Emory, Abert, and Cook, which will be useful to you.

Very respectfully,

W. MEDILL.

ADAM JOHNSTON, Esq., *Present.*
