

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17, 1852.

Sir: My last despatch, dated 12th inst., was sent by the hand of Col. J. B. Weller.

I have now the honor to hand, for your examination, my general account-current, as disbursing agent, to the 5th instant, showing a balance against the government of \$2,038 57; also sundry schedules and files of vouchers, explanatory of the same, so far as practicable; for some small bills, traveling expenses, &c., I could not take vouchers. My absence in the mountains of northern California, during the greater part of the last six months, will, I presume, be a sufficient apology for not transmitting these papers sooner. Whether the charge of five per cent. on my purchases and disbursements is in strict accordance with law, or the usages of your department, I do not know.

In all my purchases and payments, I have acted with the same reference to economy, as I should if all had been on my own private account. Mr. (acting secretary) Loughery, to whom I handed my official bond, told me that it was in the discretion of the Commissioner to make a reasonable allowance for such services when performed by the agent or commissioner *in person*, instead of through a broker by him employed. The charge is just one-half that allowed by the commercial customs of this country, and is respectfully submitted as a reasonable and proper charge. If you approve, I shall of course be gratified and obliged; if not, strike it out, or modify it.

I designed rendering separate accounts, showing our expenses while acting as a joint commission; but failing to receive instructions, as requested in my letter of May 29, 1851, as to the proper allowance for mileage, and the failure of both my colleagues to render me their accounts, all our expenses being for the same object, *i. e.* "the negotiation of treaties, &c., in California," I have included all in one account.

Colonel Barbour's unexpected return home, in my absence, rendered a settlement with him impossible: and when I applied to Doctor Wozencraft for his account and vouchers, was informed that he had already transmitted them directly to your department. Of this I certainly felt no disposition to complain, though I supposed the audit of all accounts, vouchers, &c., *here on the ground*, was contemplated by our instructions.

I enclose statements Nos. 1 and 2, of my payments to each, viz:

To Colonel George W. Barbour-----	\$4,903 20
To Doctor O. M. Wozencraft-----	7,088 64

[ 61 ]

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I also enclose No. 3, a statement of our indebtedness for provisions, so far as I have a knowledge of the same. I hope Congress will, at an early day, enable you to transmit funds to pay those debts. I know them to be just, and their creation unavoidable, in the then existing state of the country. Most of them were created, or at least arrangements made involving them, before I was aware that your application for seventy-five thousand dollars was cut down to twenty-five thousand dollars. There are other claims held, as I understand, by parties in this State, for cattle furnished on contracts, *at very high rates*, supplied in the middle and southern districts. Of these I have no definite knowledge: I have steadily opposed the making of any contract, implicating the government, until after the treaties are ratified, except small and immediately pressing demands at the time of making treaties, and have so advised my colleagues. My expenses on the northern expedition largely exceeded my expectations, particularly in the items of beef and expenses of the pack train; but all was managed as economically as possible; and considering the results which have happily followed, the expenses are trifling. Taken as a whole, I doubt whether, ever in the history of Indian negotiations, in this or any other country, as much work has been done, as much positive good effected, and as many evils averted, with such comparatively inadequate means at command. This is matter, however, for your own consideration, and that of the country. Our treasury is now empty, and, of course, nothing further can be done towards completing our work, of which considerable still remains in different parts of the State, until money shall be appropriated and placed at our disposal. If Colonel Barbour has resigned his agency, some intelligent, energetic, *business man*, should be appointed as early as possible for the southern portion of the State.

With high regard, your obedient servant,

REDICK M'KEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City.*

*Account of debts and liabilities of the Indian Department in California,  
 referred to in R. McKee's letter to Hon. Luke Lea, of Feb. 17, 1852.*

1851.			
May 20	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft in favor of Th. W. Lane—beef, &c. ....		\$1,825 00
30	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft in favor of Th. W. Lane, (endorsed to Jno. White)—beef, &c. ....		1,050 00
June 10	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft in favor of Th. W. Lane. ....		500 00
July 26	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft in favor of Th. W. Lane. ....		1,500 00
Oct. 1	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft in favor of J. C. Edwards—groceries, &c. ....		479 12
Aug. 7	J. Joseph, for bill of 4,012 pounds hard bread. ....		401 20
April & May.	Moorehead, Waddington, & Whitehead, for flour for Southern and Sacramento treaties. ....		676 00
	Don Pablo, Dela Toba, for 201 head of cattle for Indians on the Mercedo and San Joaquin. ....		8,040 00
	G. W. Marshall, certificate, per order of J. M. Estell. ....	} Balance on cattle for northern expedition.	6,598 47
	J. M. Estell, certificate, on account. ....		2,000 00
	J. M. Estell, certificate, on account. ....		1,060 00
	J. M. Estell, for flour and beef for Indians from the Clear lake, say. ....		500 00
	Chenery & Hubbard, for 100 head of cattle for Indians on Rapeau river, say. ....		4,000 00
	Chenery & Hubbard, for 100 head of cattle for Indians on Clear lake, say. ....		4,000 00
			32,569 70
	[Accounts for these not yet received; contracted for at 8 cents per pound or \$40 per head—average 500 pounds.]		