

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.

Date.	To whom, &c.	Amount.
1851.		
May 20	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, favor of Th. W. Lane—beef, &c.	\$1,825 00
30	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, 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, favor of Th. W. Lane.....	500 00
July 26	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, favor of Th. W. Lane.....	1,500 00
Oct. 1	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, 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 de la Toba, for 201 head cattle for Indians on the Mercede and San Joaquin	8,040 00
	G. W. Marshall, certificate, per order of J. M. Estelle.	6,598 47
	J. M. Estelle, certificate, on account....	} Balance on cattle for northern expedition. {
	J. M. Estelle, certificate, on account....	
	J. M. Estelle, for flour and beef for Indians from Clear lake—say...	2,000 00
	Chenery & Hubbard, for 100 head of cattle for Indians on Russian river—say	300 00
	Chenery & Hubbard, 100 for Indians on Clear lake—say	500 00
		4,000 00
		4,000 00
	[Accounts for these not yet received—contracted for at 8 cents per pound, or \$40 per head, averaging 500 pounds.]	
		32,569 79

[Not dated. Received at Indian Office February 18, 1852.]

SIR: In conformity with the statement made in my last communication, I left San Francisco on the evening of the 8th for San Diego, on the coast steamer. In pursuance of instructions, I used the most stringent economy, going without secretary or employes of any kind, not so much as a servant to attend my wants in my enfeebled state of health.

General Hitchcock responded to and exceeded my request for a small escort, (in order to visit those Indians who had commenced war against the Americans,) by sending some thirty-five men, under Lieutenant Frazer, 2d infantry, with an additional force, taken on board at Monterey, of sixteen men commanded by Lieutenant Hamilton, 3d artillery. We arrived at San Diego on the 13th instant, and immediately thereon had an interview with Major Heintzelman, commanding southern district. Then we had full confirmation of the reports that the Indians had assumed a hostile attitude, and in all probability had effected combinations to some extent, had massacred some seven or eight whites, and destroyed considerable property. Their declaration was, that they would kill and drive out of the country all Americans. Evidence went to show that they were instigated to take this step by some of the na-

tive Californians, inducing them to believe that they (the Californians) would join them. And further learned, that owing to the fact that their designs having been discovered, a portion of them refused to join the hostile movement, and took steps to have the principal leader arrested, which was effected by Juan Antonio's arresting Antonio Garra. Being deprived of the anticipated support of Juan Antonio, and losing their captain, Antonio Garra, some sought safety by going out of the way, and some few came in and gave themselves up, among them an American and a Mexican: they were tried, convicted, and executed in San Diego, yet a portion stood out in open hostility; against those we determined to move, and, if possible, punish before offering overtures of peace. On learning the foregoing facts, we deemed it impolitic to approach them in an attitude that might be construed by them as suppliant. Major Heintzelman concurring, it was determined to take all of his disposable force against them. Orders were immediately given to that officer, and accordingly the command moved the following day, numbering about eighty men, commanded by Major Heintzelman in person. On our way out we met the command that had been stationed on the Colorado, accompanied by the command of Major Kendrick, who had come in with his command as escort to the surveying expedition from New Mexico, under Capt. Sitgreaves. The command at the river had been besieged by the Indians, and dispersed on the arrival of the escort. The post being short of provisions, and too small to operate against the Indians, it was deemed expedient to vacate it. The escort found the Indians for some two hundred miles above the post hostile and very troublesome, thus adding further confirmation to the statements that the Indians were acting in co-operation. Major Heintzelman ordered the command from the above-named post to join him, thus increasing his force to some hundred men. All the arrangements were speedily made to move against the Indians, who were supposed to have assembled in a valley on the eastern slope of the mountains, at a place called Los Coyotes, opening into the desert. The plan of attack was made by dividing the command into two detachments, the one under Major Heintzelman to cross the mountains from Santa Ysabel, south of a direct line to the place indicated, and to enter the valley from the desert; the other, under Colonel Magruder, to cross in as direct a line as possible, entering the head of the valley at a given hour. We left Camp Ysabel on the 19th, and, giving a sufficient time for the command to make the more circuitous route, we reached the head of the valley Los Coyotes on the forenoon of the 21st, a few hours later than the other command, they having entered the valley at the dawn of day. Here they were met by the Indians, (who were apprized of their approach,) in considerable numbers; they advanced on the soldiers and commenced firing, which was returned with spirit—so much so, that after a short contest the Indians fled up the mountains, leaving two of their principal leaders dead on the field, with a number of others who are supposed to be killed, as they have not since been heard of. Some prisoners were taken, and others soon came in with friendly protestations. Of these I demanded that they should send for the surrounding tribes, and deliver up all those that were instigators and active participants in the late massacre and loss of property. This was complied

with, as far as it was in their power so to do, some coming in through the command of their captains—others brought in by force. Thus all within reach were brought before us. It was deemed advisable to give them a trial on the battle-field. Accordingly, a council of war was convened by order of the commander, composed of eight commissioned officers, Col. Magruder, 1st artillery, president; Lieutenant Hamilton, 3d artillery, recorder. I was invited to be present and participate in their deliberations. After a patient and protracted trial, during which many outrages were examined into, the council found four of the Indians guilty of murder, arson and robbery, and sentenced them, accordingly, to be executed forthwith, which was approved by myself and the commanding officer, who ordered their execution, which was carried into effect on the morning of the 25th, in presence of the assembled Indians, to whom I made a short but pertinent address. They all admitted the punishment to be just and well deserved. That it will have a good effect, I have no doubt: indeed, to have done less, after they knew we were aware of their guilt, would have been fraught with evil. As it is; we may confidently anticipate a continued peace. Temecula was named by me as the place of meeting for all the tribes of the Cahwia nation. Couriers were despatched to the various tribes with directions to meet me at the above-named place, as soon as they could assemble. In the mean time I mentioned the names of some four or five who, from the evidence elicited on trial, were equally guilty with those who paid the penalty with their life, and told them that they likewise must be given up whenever they could be found. I have learned to-day that most, if not all, have been delivered up to the commander of the militia of the district; thus terminating, by the most fortunate events, a war that bade fair to drive the sparse American population out of the country. The native Californians were not disturbed; indeed the chief captain of the Indians, who is now a prisoner, persists in declaring that they were instigated to commence the war by Californians, whose names he gives. There is some confirmation of this statement by letters which were intercepted. The Indian captain having received an education in one of the missions, is enabled to write.

The reasons assigned by them for commencing the war, are, that they were unjustly taxed, and, as before stated, urged to do so by the Californians; the failure of the fulfilment of promises made them by General Kearny, when passing through their country on his way to San Diego, and the non-fulfilment of Colonel Barbour's promise to meet them and make a treaty last fall, or summer; all together leading them to believe in the infidelity of the Americans. Yet I must say that those Indians who have had more immediate intercourse with the Americans did not join the movement, but, on the contrary, have rendered essential service in bringing the troubles to a close. Before leaving San Francisco, being apprehensive that those Indians in the Tulare valley who had been treated with by Colonel Barbour, but who had not, as yet, received the beef promised, would join in the hostile movement, I despatched Captain L. D. Vinsonhaler to go among them to ascertain the facts, and endeavor to prevent it, should anything of the kind be in contemplation. He has just come in, and has informed me that couriers were sent up through the above-named sec-

tion of country, by the head chiefs here, urging the Tulare Indians to join in the war. They (the Tulare Indians) refused, stating that they had made a treaty, and intended to stand by it; and so long as the Americans would fulfil their promises or part of the contract, they, the Indians, would be faithful in fulfilling theirs. After learning these facts, they were called together, and a feast was given them, with the renewed promise that they should have all that had been promised, in due time. Thus it will be perceived that a very formidable combination has been prevented by having made a treaty with a portion, at the same time the failing to treat with others has been a fruitful cause of the war.

Juan Antonio, with his people, came in several days after the appointed time; and probably would not then have come, had not the Hon. J. J. Warner gone to him with a pertinent talk. He evidently was fully inflated with his self-sufficiency, and would have me to know all that he had done, and intended doing. Indeed he wished me to believe that he was a faithful guardian, and had taken charge of the government of Indian affairs.

We deem it bad policy to have any one Indian exercise a controlling influence over many. Accordingly, we placed Captain Antonio in his proper position, after informing him that we knew of his attempt to get other Indians to engage with him in the war, those Indians refusing, and of his failure alone inducing him to be a good friend of the Americans.

At length we consummated a treaty with the three nations, all of them once of the same family, and are estimated at fifteen or twenty thousand souls, impressing on them the necessity of going to work, and their individual responsibility for all derelictions—that they had no great captain who could order them to do anything that was wrong.

We demanded that all the stock in the possession of those Indians who had been in open hostility should be brought in for examination. It was complied with; but no ill-gotten stock was found. In this they showed their perfect subjugation.

Some twenty captains, representing the various bands of the Dieguinos, were found assembled, in compliance with appointment, at Santa Ysabel. These are mostly peaceable and inoffensive Indians, requiring nothing more than a home and some little assistance in the way of living. We concluded a treaty with them.

The lands included in the two reservations are very mountainous. Within this mountain range there are some fertile valleys. Altogether would be insufficient for support. We (as will be perceived) embraced two valleys that are covered by grants. With these, we deem there will be a sufficiency of good soil to support all the Indians of the south.

At the same time, we have been mindful not to rob Peter to pay Paul; for I presume there is no white man that would be willing to live on the lands, except, in case of sickness, he chose to visit the Hot Sulphur Springs, or, as it is called in the language of the country, "Agua Caliente."

The summary retribution that has fallen on these Indians will have the effect to keep them at peace.

The Hon. J. J. Warner, the most unfortunate surviving sufferer in

the late outbreak, has determined to lay his claims before Congress for remuneration of losses. I would merely wish to state in relation to this matter that I have deviated so far in this case from all former claims which have been brought to my notice, that I have recommended him to make application for remuneration of losses, believing it to be nothing but right and just. It is true no treaty had been made with these Indians, (the grounds that I presume will debar other claims;) yet a proposition and engagement had been made with them to treat, and afterwards was not complied with by us. Indeed this was assigned to us as one of the strongest causes of the war; and, from all preceding occurrences, it will appear evident that making treaties has effectually put a stop to and prevented like occurrences. I would respectfully recommend the adjudication and settlement of his claim.

Mr. Isaac Williams submitted his claim to the commission for feeding, &c., the Indians, when assembled at his place by appointment of Colonel Barbour. I presume Colonel Barbour would have adjusted it had an opportunity presented before leaving the country. I would have included it with other estimates, but that it embraces articles that I did not feel justified in allowing; and, presuming that Congress would do him justice, I left him the course he preferred—*e. i.*, letting Congress do him justice.

In relation to the estimates which will be necessary, to carry into fulfilment all the treaty stipulations of the south, (Kah-we-as, San Luis Rey Indians, Co-con-cal-ras, Dieguinos, and the Indians of the Colorado,) I would place the sum at, at least, two hundred thousand dollars; a portion of which should be appropriated by the present Congress for the expenses already incurred and incurring, as it was so understood by the contractors before I could find a man to do anything. Indeed a man would be foolish in California, who could get ten per cent. per month for his money, and whose cattle are already as good as cash to him, to trust the government until, by dilatory legislation, he might get his pay. Had not this quick action been expected, I would have been necessitated to pay much higher prices; and I am sorry to say the indifferent or bad credit that presumptive paper on the government bears, makes it altogether a difficult matter to get credit.

It is very unpleasant to me to have to state, as on former occasions, that I have been under the necessity of borrowing the money to bear my individual expenses, but the urgent public necessity left me no choice.

An expedition is being fitted out for the Colorado river; and as soon as I receive information from the commanding officer of the near approach of a successful stroke in that quarter, I will immediately join him.

On arriving at San Diego I had to employ a secretary, on account of my feeble health and the difficulties of the march, though at first I expected to get along without one. Mr. John Hamilton received the appointment, and he also acted as interpreter, for which services I allowed him \$9 per diem.

By severe personal exertions and a rigidly economical expenditure, you will have perceived that the government has been saved millions of dollars, not considering the hundreds of innocent lives that might

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have been sacrificed in addition to the unhappy sufferers already sent
to their account by these inhuman savages.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,

U. S. Indian Agent, Middle District, California.

HON. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.
