

OLIVER M. WOZENCRAFT.  
[To accompany Joint Resolution H. R. No. 8.]

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ADDRESSED TO

*The chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, relative to the accounts  
of Oliver M. Wozencraft.*

APRIL 15, 1856.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, April 8, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your note of yesterday, asking my opinion of the propriety or necessity of the adoption of a resolution that has been referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the House, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to settle the accounts of Oliver M. Wozencraft upon principles of equity and justice.

On the examination of Mr. Wozencraft's accounts in this office, as commissioner and agent, it was found that he had not produced vouchers for some disbursements he had charged in his accounts against the United States; others were for compensation to persons for services not thought necessary, and not usually allowable; and quite a number were for commutation of travelling expenses of himself and persons in his employ. Some accordingly were suspended, and others disallowed; the aggregate of suspensions and disallowances amounting to from five to seven thousand dollars.

Several years have elapsed since the disbursements were made; and at the time they were made, the service in California not being in a well-organized condition, it is probable that some requirements for explanations, and the production of amended vouchers and sub-vouchers, which are required by the regulations and the usual course of action on accounts, cannot now be met.

With this statement of facts, the committee will be able to judge of

2

OLIVER M. WOZENCRAFT.

the propriety or necessity of the passage of such a resolution ; and I do not myself see any objection thereto, if the same be confined to an adjustment of his charges for disbursements actually made, and be so worded as to exclude any authority in respect to contracts entered into by Mr. Wozencraft, and drafts drawn by him, on which individuals now base claims against the United States.

I would also remark that, in the event of the adoption of such a resolution, an appropriation may be found requisite to enable the department to carry it into effect.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. BENJAMIN PRINGLE,  
*Chairman of the Committee of Indian Affairs;*  
*United States House of Representatives.*