
No. 90.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 14, 1853.

SIR: AS I understand that you have obtained and transmitted to California a treasury draft for the \$250,000 appropriated by the act of Congress approved 3d March last, I have to request that, upon your arrival at San Francisco, you will deposit the amount with the collector for the port of San Francisco, to the credit of the treasurer of the United States. This course is necessary now in order to enable you to comply with the instructions sent to you on yesterday.

I will add, that the modification made in the instructions originally prepared for you, was not the result of any want of confidence whatever in your prudence and discretion, but was solely with a view to guard against the establishment of a precedent, which might result in evil consequences in other cases, and to avoid locking up unnecessarily so much of the public money on the Pacific.

The Secretary of the Treasury will direct the collector at San Francisco to honor your drafts, in accordance with the wishes of this department.

You are authorized to draw upon the department for such portion of the \$30,000, appropriated for general incidental expenses of the Indian department in California, as you may be in immediate need of, and upon the collector at San Francisco for such further sum as may be required to meet the expenses incident to the selection of the military reservations to be accounted for under *that head*.

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

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary.*

EDWARD F. BEALE, Esq.,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California

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No 91.

LOS ANGELOS, CALIFORNIA,

August 22, 1853.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival in this State on the 9th instant, and, in obedience with my instructions, I have been occupied since then in the examination of lands from the State line to this place, which might be suitable for the occupancy of the Indians within my superintendency.

Under the many difficulties and perplexities attending the establishment of an entire new system of government, which is to change the character and habits of a hundred thousand persons, I cannot, as yet, in my communications to the department, give, as my instructions require, a detailed account of all my transactions. In fact, to this date nothing of interest has been accomplished. The country on the Mohart river, lying to the southward of Walker's pass, on which I had hoped to establish at least two of the reservations, after a careful examination I find to be utterly unfit for that purpose, and I am now about to examine a tract near the head of the great Tulware valley, in the hope of meeting with better success there.

Since my arrival here, I have been constantly in consultation with the most experienced men of the State on Indian matters, and as I approach more nearly the practical operation of my plan, I find numerous obstacles obtruding themselves which had not previously occurred to me. One of the principal of these is the peculiar wording of the act of Congress making the appropriation, which embarrasses me more than I can express; and at times it seems to me that I must either assume responsibilities which might bring me into serious difficulties with the accounting officers of the treasury, or else abandon the whole system I have proposed; for the purpose of carrying out which, Congress has made that *identical appropriation*. A single instance of this is sufficient. My plan proposed the abandonment of the three agencies, and the substitution of six sub-agencies—the latter being a most important feature of the proposition. Owing, I presume, to the haste with which the law was framed, the agencies were abolished; but no provision was made for the substitution of the sub-agencies. Now, sir, without the assistance of such subordinate officers, it is impracticable for me to control the entire Indian policy of this State—to scheme, devise and arrange for, and to carry into execution an almost entire change in the hereditary mode of life of one hundred thousand persons, scattered over a distance of seven hundred miles, and living, for the most part, in mountains difficult of access. Yet I almost fear to appoint sub-agents, although the President told me, in a conversation, to do so. Again, the same difficulty presents itself in the employment of blacksmiths, farmers, carpenters, &c., since the law reads "for subsistence and removal;" for the construction put upon "subsistence" might be such as to make me pecuniarily accountable for moneys disbursed in paying their wages, although expended in direct accordance with the views of those who framed and voted for the appropriation.

In regard to my own accounts, it is impossible to keep them with the precision and regularity of other superintendents, who have certain

fixed routines of duty, from which they are not compelled to depart. With me it is different. I am obliged to be continually in the field, forever actively and actually employed, to the almost entire exclusion of office business, unless I neglect that for which I am sent here—the establishment of a new order of things.

At this time I see no probability of being able to return to San Francisco until the month of December; consequently it will be impossible for me to send in my quarterly returns and accounts, and ask the indulgence of the department for this delay.

I respectfully request the department to take these matters into consideration, and to make due allowances for the difficulties of my position. I am not here to continue a business already traced out and known, but have to frame and direct a new policy, which it is hoped will produce the most beneficial results; and I wish the department to feel, that as the President and Congress have approved and adopted my plan, I have entered into the execution of it with my entire energy and whole heart. Moreover, I feel sure of accomplishing all I have promised. But it cannot be done in a month, or a year; but if I am allowed five years, without interference and with proper assistants, I shall not only be able to support the Indians by their own labor, but their surplus produce will be sufficient to pay the expenses of all those whom it will be necessary to employ to aid and instruct them.

As soon as I have selected the localities of the reservations, I shall open contracts for the removal of Indians to them, and request the sanction of the department to the appointment of such sub-agents as I shall be obliged to make in pursuance of the plan proposed.

To enable me to travel within the limit of my instructions, I made a contract for the transportation of myself and escort from Westport to this place; and, whenever it is practicable, I hope I may be allowed to continue to do so, as it will save me much trouble, and will relieve me of at least a portion of my many embarrassments.

My instructions render it imperative that I should abolish the present agencies, and I shall therefore issue the requisite notice to Mr. Wilson at once, though I shall be obliged to employ him in some other capacity, as it is impossible to dispense with his services at present. He is perfectly indifferent as to holding office—a gentleman of great wealth and high standing here—and would only consent to serve from a sincere desire to benefit this portion of the country, in which a long residence has made his influence with the Indians extremely great. I would add also that he never sought the position of agent, but was appointed by the last administration without ever knowing it until I sent him his commission. I shall employ him as temporary assistant to superintend the removal of Indians and to aid in locating reservations, his knowledge of the country being perfect, and to use his paramount influence to induce the Indians to remove in peace. Mr. Wilson will only consent to give his assistance in any capacity for a short time, not to exceed next spring.

Mr. Edwards, as I informed you some time since, I had employed, under authority of previous instructions, as farming agent, and to collect, instruct, and protect the Indians of Joaquin valley, whom I had brought together on the small reserve commenced last fall, which I

