
CAMP BARBOUR, SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, CAL.,
May 1, 1851.

SIR: Our last joint communication to you, under date of 25th March, from Camp Gibson, enclosed a copy of the treaty concluded by us on the Mariposa river with the Si-yau-te, Poto-yau-te, Co-co-noon, Apangape, Aplache, and Awallache tribes of Indians.

We have now the honor to report that on the 27th March we left that camp, and that evening reached Camp McLean, on the Fresno river, where we remained till the 12th of April, awaiting the return of our couriers, or runners, sent up into the mountains to invite the Indians to meet us there or on this river. It was finally agreed that we should move over to the San Joaquin, where we were promised a meeting with numerous tribes, or bands. We arrived, accordingly, at this camp on the 15th ultimo; found some Indians on the ground, and others continued to arrive daily until the 26th, when, having meanwhile treated the red men and their families to as much provisions as they could eat, and finding them in excellent good humor, we met them in council, explained to them the object and purposes of our mission, and submitted to them our propositions for a general treaty of peace, and a settlement of all existing difficulties. On the 28th we met them in general council again, heard their replies, and finally, on the 29th ultimo, entered into a formal treaty with the following sixteen tribes, whose country we are now in, viz:

The How-ech-es,	} Under the grand chief Nai-yak-qua.
Chook-chau-ces,	
Chou-chill-ies,	
Po-ho-neeck-es,	
Nook-choos,	

The Pit-cach-es, Cas-soes, Toom-nas, Tal-lin-ches, Pos-ke-sas,	}	Under Tom-quit.
The Wa-cha-hets, I-tech-ecs, Cho-e-nim-nees, Cho-ki-me-nas, No-to-no-tos, We-mal-ches,		

A copy of the treaty will accompany this letter, and give you the general outline of the tract of country assigned them for their future homes, together with the provision we have made for their subsistence during two years, and for their protection and subsequent improvement.

The district assigned these tribes will extend along the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada for about 50 miles; general course, N. W. by S. E., and 15 miles in width, extending down some distance in the plains, or valleys, in which there are occasional strips of tolerably good farming land; enough, perhaps, with the aid of their much-loved acorn, wild potato, wild onion, &c., and an abundance of fish in the rivers, at certain seasons, to subsist five or ten times their present number. With several of these tribes there are connected large bands or parties called "Monas," or lost or wild Indians, who are still in the mountains. It is almost impossible, therefore, to form anything like a correct estimate of their numbers. From partial counts or census taken by our secretary, there are now settled upon reserve No. 1, between the Mercede and Tuolumne, some 600 or 700 souls, which may be increased, when the "Monas" come in, to 1,000 or 1,200. At this camp we have counted 711. When all come in they may number, on this reservation, some 2,000 to 3,000. Before we make up our final report, Mr. Adam Johnston, the sub-agent, who will be left in charge of these two reserves, will have made a more satisfactory estimate of their numbers.

These two treaties have, we think, broken the confidence of the hostile tribes in their ability to contend with the whites, and we trust will end the war and bring about a general pacification on this whole frontier. Such is the opinion also of the oldest settlers in this country. The district assigned these tribes, while apparently liberal in extent, is not likely to be ever coveted by the whites; and, as a general thing, is of no value for common agricultural purposes. It is also outside the mining or gold district; and so far as we can ascertain, not more than one Mexican grant, and that of very doubtful authenticity, covers any part of it.

The Indians we have met here are generally a hale, healthy, good-looking people, not inferior to their red brethren in the southwestern States; and from having among them many who in early life were attached to the old missions of this country, have already some knowledge of letters, of stock-raising, and agriculture. We think they will

therefore make rapid improvement when schools, &c., shall be established among them.

We have found by experience that the best way to keep these Indians of California quiet and peaceable is to give them plenty of food. With beef occasionally, and a little flour to mix with the pulverized acorn, making their favorite *panoli*, nothing can induce them to quarrel with the whites. If ever the secret history of the late disturbances is written, we have no doubt but nineteen out of every twenty will be found to have had their origin in direct aggression on the part of unprincipled white men, or failure on their part to supply the Indians with beef and flour, as the promised reward of their labor.

We have, therefore, been under the necessity of making pretty liberal provision under the head of "subsistence;" and now advertise you that this course will have to be pursued throughout the whole State. The cost of beef-cattle *in this part of the country* varies from eight to fifteen cents per pound. In the southern part of the State, where the large ranchos are mostly situated, it can be bought much lower—say from three to five cents per pound. For present pressing demands we have to do the best we can, fully satisfied that our policy is correct, and that it is in the end *cheaper* to feed the whole flock for a *year* than *fight* them for a week.

We have now concluded, in view of the almost interminable extent of country to be traversed in carrying out our instructions, to cease acting *as a board*, and address ourselves to the work individually. We have made a temporary division of the State into three districts, for the purpose of negotiating treaties with the various tribes upon the general plan submitted in our joint letter of 10th March. For our respective districts lots were drawn to-day, and the northern fell to the writer (R. McKee,) the middle to O. M. Wozencraft, and the southern to George W. Barbour. The latter will proceed on south with our present escort; the other two will obtain smaller escorts from the commander of the division at Benicia, and proceed immediately, after the receipt of expected remittances, to their respective posts. Mr. John McKee, our secretary, will accompany the writer to act in that capacity, and to keep his accounts as disbursing agent. The other two commissioners will employ secretaries when it may be found necessary. Our object is to expedite and finish these settlements and negotiations at the earliest practicable day, and thus economize both time and expense. We are now largely indebted for flour and cattle, and await the arrival of the mail with anxiety. If further remittances do not reach us soon, our operations must necessarily be suspended.

We remain, very respectfully, your most obedient servants,

REDICK McKEE.

G. W. BARBOUR.

O. M. WOZENCRAFT.

HON. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner Indian Affairs Washington City.