

CAMP BELT, ON KING'S RIVER, CALIFORNIA,

May 14, 1851.

SIR: I have the honor of enclosing herewith a copy of the treaty entered into and agreed upon on yesterday between myself, on the part of the government of the United States, and twelve tribes of Indians residing in this (the southern) part of the State.

On the 2d inst., as you will have learned from a joint communication addressed to you by the three commissioners from the San Joaquin river, we concluded that we could better serve the government and expedite the object of our mission by separating than by continuing to act together.

After determining upon the districts to be visited by each, and the southern one having been allotted to me, I immediately employed Indian runners to visit the various tribes between King's and Kern rivers, desiring them to meet me at this place as soon as practicable.

On the evening of the 3d I left Camp Barbour, on the San Joaquin, accompanied by the escort with which we started out, and moved down the river ten or twelve miles, in order to get upon the plain over which we had to march to reach this (King's) river. We encamped for the night without pitching our tents, that we might make an early start, so as to avoid the heat as much as possible in crossing that part of the plain which is destitute of water and timber—a distance of between twenty-five and thirty miles.

The morning of the 4th we were under way by 3 o'clock, and at 4 o'clock in the evening reached our encampment on this river, having travelled some thirty-five miles over a sandy desert.

In the evening a few Indians came into camp, and I procured other runners to start out. The next day (5th) a delegation from one of the tribes (hostile) came in; other messengers were despatched on the morning of the 6th, and delegations from the various tribes treated with continued to come in until the 11th, when I ascertained that all the tribes that could be prevailed upon to meet me at this place had sent in their chiefs and headmen.

On the morning of the 12th we commenced the treaty, and on the 13th agreed upon the terms, which you will find in the copy herewith sent to you.

The twelve tribes included in this treaty number about four thousand one hundred and twenty (4,120) persons, one thousand of whom are warriors; they have all been hostile, and a majority of the depredations upon the lives and property of the "whites" in this part of the State have been committed by these tribes; they are more athletic and warlike than any Indians I have seen in the State, and more intelligent. They have heretofore possessed and occupied all that district of country between King's and Kern rivers, from the Tulare lakes to the Sierra Nevada mountains, a large portion of which, known as the "Four Creek" country, is regarded as the very best section of land in the State.

In the treaty I have succeeded in getting them to remove from the best portion of that country, and to settle upon lands not so good, yet sufficiently so for all practical purposes, so far as they are concerned.

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From all I can learn, there are but three tribes left untreated with north of Kern river, from the "Sierra Nevada" to the "Coast Range;" they live immediately on Kern river, and from what I have learned of them, can, in all probability, be prevailed upon to cross that river and settle on the south side, where I contemplate, if possible, making another treaty and settlement.

You may probably think that the amount agreed to be given to those tribes with whom we have treated is great; but when you take into consideration their *poverty*, the country they surrender, and *particularly* the *expense* of a *war with them* that would necessarily last for years, to say nothing of the gold mines which they give up, I do not think you will conceive that we have given them too much.

Hoping that what I have done, as well as what I may do, will meet with your approbation, as well as the approval of the President and Senate, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

G. W. BARBOUR.

Hon. LUKE LEA.

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