

Extract from a communication of Redick McKee, dated San Francisco, February 17, 1852, to the Hon. Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

"I also enclose (No. 3) a statement of our indebtedness for provisions, so far as I have a knowledge of the same. I hope Congress will at an early day enable you to transmit funds to pay these debts. I know them to be just, and their creation unavoidable, in the then existing state of the country. Most of them were created, or at least arrangements made involving them, before I was aware that your application for \$75,000 was cut down to \$25,000. There are other claims held, as I understand, by parties in this State for cattle furnished on contracts at very high rates, supplied in the middle and southern districts. Of these I have no definite knowledge. Have steadily opposed the making of any contracts implicating the government until after the treaties are ratified, except small and immediately pressing demands at the time of making treaties, and have so advised my colleagues."

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 paid. | For what paid. | Amount. |
|---------|---|---|--------------------|
| 1851. | | | |
| May 2 | R. McKee, acceptor of G. W. Barbour's draft for Thomas W. Lape. | Beef, &c. | \$1,825 00 |
| 30 |do.....do.. | (Endorsed to John White)..... | 1,050 00 |
| June 10 |do.....do.. | | 500 00 |
| July 26 |do.....do.. | | 1,500 00 |
| Oct. 1 | R. McKee, (for J. C. Edwards)..... | Groceries, &c..... | 479 12 |
| Aug. 7 | J. Joseph..... | Bill of 4,012 pounds hard bread..... | 401 20 |
| Ap. May | Moorehead, Waddington, & Whitehead... Don Pablo de la Toba.. | Flour for southern and Sacramento treaties. 201 head of cattle for Indians on the Merced and San Joaquin..... | 676 00 8,040 00 |
| | G. W. Marshall..... | Certified per order of J. M. Estell..... | 6,598 47 |
| | J. M. Estell, certified on account..... | Balance on cattle for northern superintend't. | 2,000 00 |
| | Do.....do..... |do.....do..... | 1,000 00 |
| | Do.....do..... | Flour and beef for Indians from Clear Lake. | 500 00 |
| | Chenery & Hubbard... | 100 head of cattle for Ind's on Rapin riv., say. | *4,000 00 |
| | Do.....do..... | 100 for Indians on Clear Lake, say..... | *4,000 00 |
| | | | 32,569 79 |

* Accounts for these not yet received. Contracted for at 8 cents per pound, or \$40 per head, average 500 pounds.

DISBURSING AGENCY INDIAN
DEPARTMENT IN CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, May 15, 1852.

SIR: My last dispatch, under date of 1st instant, acknowledged receipt of your letters of 26th February and 20th and 22d March.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

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We have dates from your city to the 9th ultimo, but no account of the arrival of Lieutenant Beall. Deeming it proper that you should be advised of every movement touching Indian matters in this quarter, I enclose printed slips from the Daily Herald of this city, and the Transcript and Journal of Sacramento, the former containing my letter suppressed by the governor, the latter strictures upon the late movement of Hon. W. McCorkle, asking an appropriation of \$520,000 to pay debts *incurred by the Indian agency in California*. To me the matter is wholly inexplicable. I enclose also copies of notes addressed yesterday and to-day to the editors of those journals, with a view to ward off the blame which those strictures were designed to throw upon the department and the administration. Unless such attacks are met and promptly nailed to the counter, they go at once into circulation and do mischief. I have letters from the temporary agent in Shasta and Scott's valleys to the 4th instant. The Indians were perfectly quiet and inoffensive, but short of provisions. The salmon fishery will soon commence and I hope supply their wants.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

REDICK McKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA, *Commissioner, &c., Washington City.*

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

SAN FRANCISCO, *May 14, 1852.*

GENTLEMEN: In your editorial yesterday, in reference to the amendment said to have been proposed by Mr. McCorkle of this State to the deficiency bill, then before Congress, you take occasion, as has been too much your "wont," to jump at conclusions, and make a fling at the administration over the heads, or in connexion with, the United States Indian agents in California, which strikes me as both illogical and unjust.

I will therefore trespass on your columns to say, that I presume there is some mistake about this reported amendment offered by Mr. McCorkle; that it has either been misprinted, or if correctly reported, the honorable member, in his anxiety to approve himself the constant friend of the "*dear people*," has volunteered his services in a matter about which he was but illy advised, and in a manner which could have insured for his amendment nothing but instant rejection.

1. The sum called for, \$520,000, to pay debts contracted by the Indian commissioners or agents in California, is only about \$500,000 more than there is any necessity for at present, so far as my knowledge of the debts extends; and I should conjecture full \$400,000 more than necessary, even if it shall prove true as reported, that Colonel Frémont has valuable contracts, at very satisfactory prices, with one of my colleagues for the supply of the southern Indians, upon which money is due.

2. If Mr. McCorkle asked for such an appropriation it must have been not to pay debts already contracted, but to provide means estimated as necessary to carry out the provisions of the several treaties