
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, May 22, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: Your letters of March 5th and 25th, 1851, the last enclosing copy of a treaty entered into with chiefs, captains, and headmen of six tribes of Indians, in California, and one from agent McKee of March 24, 1851, have been received.

The department fully appreciates the difficulties with which you have had to contend in executing the important trust confided to you, and is highly gratified with the results you have thus far achieved; especially with your energy and despatch in procuring a location for several tribes of Indians and promptly removing them to it.

The provisions of the treaty, a copy of which is acknowledged above, are approved of; but the *original treaty* is the only document that can go before the Senate. You will, therefore, transmit it in time for the preliminary examination to be made by the President and officers of the department, before submitting it to the Senate for ratification.

As so much uncertainty exists as to the number of Indians in California, and as Congress appropriated so small an amount for negotiations with them, cutting down the sum asked for—\$75,000—to \$25,000, the department does not approve of the suggestion to district the State and assign to each a separate division.

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The suggestions contained in the letter of agent McKee, in regard to establishing a superintendency at San Francisco, or Sacramento City, for the Indians in California and Oregon; the necessity for alterations in the Indian laws to adapt them to the Indians on the Pacific coast; and the propriety of bringing to Washington and the Atlantic cities a deputation of Indian chiefs, will be duly considered.

You are directed to inform yourselves upon the subject of alterations in the Indian laws and report to this office such changes as you think necessary; or the outlines of a code for its examination, in order that, if the department deem it advisable and proper, suitable measures may be prepared and submitted in due time for legislative action.

It would doubtless have a favorable effect if a delegation of chiefs were to visit Washington and the Atlantic cities; but as there is no appropriation applicable to such object, the consent of Congress is requisite before it can be sanctioned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. LEA, *Commissioner.*

MESSRS. REDICK MCKEE,
GEO. W. BARBOUR,
O. M. WOZENCRAFT.
