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CAMP KEYES, CALAWIA RIVER, CALIFORNIA,  
May 28, 1851.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 19th instant, in which you propose furnishing beef cattle, brood mares and cows, to the Indians in this (the southern) district of the State, according to the stipulations of such treaties as have been or may be made with the different tribes.

Having received no advices from the Indian Department at Washington since my colleagues and myself adopted the policy of supplying those Indians with whom we might treat with beef and stock &c., I could not, except to a very limited extent, enter into any unconditional contract for supplying those Indians treated with in this (the southern) district of the State; but in view of the necessity for such supplies, and not doubting but that the proper authorities will readily acquiesce in the policy that we have adopted, I should not hesitate to make such contracts as may be necessary to carry out *in good faith* the stipulations of such treaties as may be made with the Indians. Such contracts, of course, being left subject to the approval or rejection of the Indian Department at Washington.

I have had many proposals offered me to furnish such supplies, but regarding your offer as the best and lowest of any yet made by a responsible man, and believing, as I do, that your offer is a fair one, I have concluded to close with your proposition, subject however to the approval or rejection of the same by the Indian Department at Washington.

Should this arrangement be satisfactory you can confer with Col. A. Johnson, sub-agent for the San Joaquin valley, who is near you, and who will advise you of the time and place, and number of beef cattle wanted for the Indians in this vicinity with whom treaties have been made. I will advise you as to what will be necessary after leaving this valley.

Respectfully,

G. W. BARBOUR,  
*Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.*

Col. J. C. FRÉMONT.