

DENT AND VANTINE'S FERRY,  
*May 28, 1851.*

SIR: Having this day concluded a treaty with six bands or tribes of Indians, the copy of which is herewith enclosed, based on the terms agreed on when acting jointly, deviating, however, somewhat, in some of the clauses, which was deemed essential; for instead of increasing the number of brood cows, and diminishing the amount and number of other articles stipulated, believing, as I do, that it is essentially necessary to give them an amount of brood stock sufficient to place them beyond the necessity of claiming aid from the general government.

I fear the number allowed them will be found insufficient; yet I would wish to consult economy as far as practicable; and with a view to that end, I have instituted a clause securing to them the right of the crossings on the rivers within and bounding the reservations, which will be a source of great profit, and, indeed, by judicious management, may be sufficient for their support hereafter. I would respectfully, but most urgently, recommend that the department adopt measures at an early day to secure to them a full and exclusive right to ferries now established, as well as to those that may hereafter be established, within the limits of the reservations. Learning that goats can be procured on this coast in abundance, I am satisfied that it would be a judicious investment to purchase for them a number: being so prolific in their increase, they would soon have an ample supply for consumption. I have accordingly specified them in the treaty, with the hope that it will meet with the approval of the department.

Hostilities having recently commenced between the confederated bands of Indians and the whites in Eldorado county, and within the district allotted me, I have taken preparatory measures by sending out couriers among them, inviting them in, with a confident hope of securing a peace.

A small escort of mounted men has been ordered to accompany me, and I expect to proceed to the appointed place of meeting immediately after the arrival of the mail steamer, which is due on the 4th proximo, being necessitated to await the arrival of the mail, with the hope of get-

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ting an order from the department for funds which were expected by the last mail, but did not come to hand; in consequence of which, I have been obliged to raise money on my own account, in order to meet the appointments at this place. Should it fail to come by the next steamer, I apprehend it will be of serious moment, having made two appointments to meet, and, if possible, to pacify those Indians in the Sacramento valley who are now committing depredations on the whites, and believing, as I do, that a permanent treaty can be established by visiting them, and pursuing the policy heretofore pursued by us.

It is of the greatest importance that this be done immediately, as urged in a former communication; and as evidence of this, I would state that the captain of a band of Indians came in while we were making this treaty, representing to me that his people formerly lived down in the foot-hills on the Calaveras; but, owing to the aggression of the whites, he has been forced high up in the mountains, where, as stated in a former communication, it became necessary that they steal to prevent starvation.

He asks for protection for himself and his people within the reservation set apart for them; this being promised, he will bring them all down, and change his mode of life. This is all they ask, and as little, I think, as they should expect.

As before stated, it is manifestly necessary that they be furnished with provisions for some time to come, if we would avoid a border war; and I would again respectfully urge on the department the importance of this subject. Without funds in our hands we will be compelled to make prospective contracts if we would carry out the policy commenced, and at a serious disadvantage to the general government, owing to the high rates that money commands here.

I look upon the Indians here, in this country, as beings that can be domesticated probably more readily than any of our Atlantic tribes. They, not unlike their climate, are mild and inoffensive, and if the disturbing elements are not exerted to motion, they will become useful members of society, for which now they express a lively desire, as also to adopt the habits of civilized men; but if their latent passions are incited to development by ill usage and kindness withheld, we may anticipate a storm of war, in which they must be annihilated.

Respectfully, your obedint servant,

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,  
*U. S. Commissioner.*

Hon. LUKE LEA,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

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