
SAN FRANCISCO, *May 29, 1851.*

SIR : By the steamer hence 15th instant, I transmitted to your address a joint letter from myself and colleagues, written at Camp Barbour, on the San Joaquin, 1st instant, accompanying copy of a treaty made on the 29th April with sixteen important tribes residing in that region ; also a letter from myself, with copies of letters addressed to my colleagues, and memorandum of my accounts as disbursing agent, to the

13th instant; also copy of our journal to the 4th of April. The remainder of our journal, to the 2d instant, will be enclosed in this, (sent in a separate envelope.)

On the 22d instant I returned from Benicia, the headquarters of Major Sewall, the present commander of this military division, from whom I expect to obtain a small escort of mounted men, to accompany myself, secretary, interpreters, &c., in an exploring tour through the northern part of this State. We are embarrassed in arranging for this journey by the want of money in the military chest, as well as the lack of reliable information as to the numbers and location of the Indian tribes inhabiting those wilds. From all the information I have yet collected from traders, miners, and travellers, who have visited the coast and penetrated the interior of that till lately unexplored district, the Indians are quite numerous, and by far the most warlike of their race in this State. Their principal settlements are said to be on Russian, Eel, Trinity, Scott, and Klamath rivers. In general they are hostile to the whites, who have intruded on their lands, and have very little idea of their numbers or power, and none at all of our government. Their languages are represented as extremely various, meagre, and limited—scarce any two tribes can understand each other's lingo. This will render intercourse with them difficult, and possibly, in some cases, impossible. It will also involve a much larger outlay for interpreters, runners, &c. In all other parts of California there can be found among the wild tribes some who can understand Spanish, or at least the corrupted mongrel lingo of the native Mexicans.

I was again disappointed in the receipt of advices from your department by the last steamer, which brought New York dates to the 11th or 12th April. If the next steamer, due here 5th or 6th proximo, brings me checks on the collector for the amount appropriated, I will be able to move in a few days; otherwise I shall have to remain here inactive until "the sinews" of *Indian negotiations*, as well as of *war*, do reach me.

I have a letter from Colonel Barbour, dated 16th instant, at Camp Belt, on King's river, advising of his having closed a treaty, which he had previously arranged for, with twelve more of the tribes in that quarter, numbering some 4,200 souls, and leaving but three small tribes unprovided for on that whole frontier of some two hundred miles, extending along the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada, south to about the latitude of Los Angeles. A copy of this treaty has not yet reached me, but has, I presume, been forwarded to you. I am fearful we shall be involved in difficulty in meeting the stipulation for subsistence for these tribes in 1851.

Colonel Barbour doubtless acted on the supposition that Congress had placed at our disposal at least the sum requested in your report, \$75,000, while my present understanding is that only \$25,000 were granted.

Dr. Wozencraft left this on the 24th instant to meet the Indians near Dent's ferry, on the Stanislaus, about fifty miles east of Stockton, and the same about whom we wrote you in February from Camp Grayson.

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to him of that date, giving the amount

of money and goods turned over to him. We shall soon be out of *goods*, as well as *money*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

REDICK McKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City.

P. S.—In making up my accounts for the quarter ending 9th April, as rendered to my colleagues 13th instant, I credited Colonel Barbour and myself with mileage from the interior of Kentucky and Virginia, 6,000 miles at 10 cents, \$600, and Dr. Wozencraft from New Orleans, 5,000 miles, \$500. The Doctor complains of this, and, upon the strength of conversations with Senator Gwin and Colonel Weller, (late boundary commissioner,) claims an allowance of \$750 for mileage. I will enclose an extract from a note I wrote him in reply on the 22d instant; and will thank you to let me know, on receipt of this, the proper amount to allow myself and colleagues by way of credit for this item. I suppose the allowance made to the members of Congress from California may be allowed to us. On this point I desire your particular instructions. Please forward the enclosed letter to my son at Wheeling.

R. McK.

Extract of a letter from R. McKee to O. M. Wozencraft.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22, 1851.

SIR: On my return from Benicia, arranging for a small escort for my contemplated journey north, I have found on my table your favor of the 16th, and note contents. With Senator Gwin's views on the subject of mileage I was acquainted some days since, and would have allowed you more than \$500 if I could have estimated the distance from New Orleans to this city at over 5,000 miles, and had not been restricted by the letter of our instructions to *ten cents* per mile. Colonel Barbour's residence in Kentucky, and my own in Virginia, is much more than 1,000 miles further off than New Orleans; nevertheless, I assume as the basis of my entries 5,000 and 6,000 miles.

As you deem this to be too low, and claim an allowance of \$750, I have concluded to submit the whole question to the department at Washington, and will hereafter make such alterations in our accounts as Mr. Lea may order or authorize.

It is customary, as I understand, to pay salaries quarterly; and as our commissions as *commissioners* bear date 9th October, 1850, I made my entries for the first two quarters on the 9th April, 1851, allowing each commissioner credit for 182 days, at eight dollars per day. As to the item of \$11 80 for telegraphing, you expressed yourself satisfied at Camp Barbour, and I supposed you were so. I will repeat the explanation I then gave you. Six dollars and eighty cents was paid at Wheeling for my second despatch to you at New Orleans, on the 16th October, at the suggestion of Mr. Loughery, acting Commissioner, and \$5 was paid at Baltimore on the 4th November for my third despatch

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to you, stating that your draft for \$2,000 should be paid in New York. I supposed this was all for your accommodation; but if you think the expense should fall on me, say so, and I will pass the amount to your credit. I do not, therefore, see any necessity for altering my entries at present, or changing the account rendered you on the 13th instant, by which a balance stands at your debit of \$1,080 80. I will examine the invoice of the goods remaining on hand in this city, and turn over to you a full proportion of the packages, reserving a small lot which Colonel Barbour has just requested me to ship for him by way of Los Angeles, and a few packages for my own district.
