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S. Doc. 4.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4, 1851.

SIR: Enclosed I hand you a copy of a despatch from Hon. Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated 12th April, and received here by the last steamer.

From this you will see that our functions as *commissioners* are to cease, and that any further treaties we may enter into with the Indian tribes of California must be in the capacity of "Indian agents," specially authorized to treat, &c. In order to the making up of my accounts of the expenses of the commission, as requested by Mr. Lea, to this date, you will please render me an account of any expenses you have incurred, in your official capacity, from the time of our separation at Camp Barbour, on the San Joaquin. In sending a copy of this despatch to Colonel Barbour, I will make the same request, and thus bring all the accounts up to the same day. I regret to inform you that, notwithstanding my repeated requests to the department to forward funds for the use of our commission, in checks upon the collector of this port, (who has, I understand, nearly two millions lying idle,) no remittance has reached me, nor indeed has the department ever condescended to acknowledge the receipt of a single communication from me since I left New York. Having requested the money appropriated by Congress *to be sent here*, in the absence of all instructions upon the subject, I dislike to make drafts on the department, or ask Colonel King to make advances for this service.

The disturbances, however, between the whites and Indians in the Sacramento valley, if the published reports are at all to be relied on, makes it highly important that an authorized United States agent should reach that country at the earliest possible day; and as you say you *cannot* proceed without additional funds, I will make the arrangement with Colonel King, by which he will advance you the amount you require—*one thousand dollars*.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. McKEE.

Dr. O. M. WOZENCRAFT.

I also send you herewith a copy of the laws, regulations, &c., of the Indian Bureau. The laws of Congress having been extended over California, we shall have, as "Indian agents," occasion to refer to them frequently.

R. McK.