

VALLEY OF SAN JOAQUIN,
Merced River, Cal., June 24, 1851.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the application, bond, and license of Dent, Vantine & Co., as traders to the Indians located on the reservation between the Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers. The application was made on the 29th day of May, A. D. 1851, by John C. Dent, James Vantine, and Lewis Dent, for license to trade on said reservation under the name and style of Dent, Vantine & Co., proposing to furnish a capital of \$10,000, and desiring to employ Henry Colter as clerk. The persons named in the application are so well known to me personally, and to the people of this community, that I did not deem it necessary to add testimonials beyond my own. The firm have for some time been engaged in business upon the Stanislaus river. One of its members has resided in California since 1847; was a member of the convention that formed the State constitution, and has lived much of his time among the Indians now with him. Their bond, in the penal sum of \$5,000, is regularly filed, with John W. Newberry and W. C. Harrington as sureties. I have approved it, and am satisfied of its entire sufficiency. There was no other formal application for the position; but if there had been, I am sure no better persons could have been selected. I have already placed them upon the reservation, under the license dated June 9, A. D. 1851, at the sum of \$1,000 per annum. In my absence, they attend to the business of the reservation with the same care that I could were I present in person.

I hope the necessity of so immediately placing authorized persons as traders upon the reservation may be readily perceived, and be sufficient apology for my hurried and irregular proceedings in not transmitting the papers directly to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as required by the second section of the act of June 24, A. D. 1834.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ADAM JOHNSTON,
Indian Sub-agent, Valley of the San Joaquin.

HON. LUKE LEA,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

KNIGHT'S FERRY, *May 29, 1851.*

SIR: The undersigned, John C. Dent, James Vantine, and Lewis Dent, hitherto trading at their ferry on the river Stanislaus, called Knight's ferry, under the name and style of Dent, Vantine & Co., have the honor to make application to you for license to trade with those Indian tribes about to assemble in the reservation lying between the rivers Stanislaus and Tuolumne, in accordance with the stipulations of the treaty exchanged at the said ferry on the 20th instant.

The places proposed to be selected for the purposes of trade by the undersigned, in case your answer should be favorable to their application, at present cannot be definitely indicated, owing to the absence of the Indians; but such points within the reservation on either or both the rivers constituting part of the boundary thereof would be agreeable, being most convenient and proper for said purpose of trade. The un-

dersigned further propose to furnish a capital of \$10,000 stock in trade, and Henry Colter we are desirous to employ as clerk. Should the demands of business warrant an alteration of the amount of capital and number of clerks, the undersigned will promptly inform you of the facts and be prepared with additional capital. All which we beg leave most respectfully to submit.

Very respectfully,

DENT, VANTINE & CO.

Col. A. JOHNSTON,
United States Indian Agent.

VALLEY OF SAN JOAQUIN,
Mercede River, California, June 24, 1851.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the application, bond, and license of George G. Belt, of Stockton, as a trader for the Indians upon the reservation lying between the Tuolumne and Mercede rivers. Mr. Belt has resided in California for several years, and is well known to the community as an energetic business man. His experience in the country and his business habits render him peculiarly fit for the position of trader in a community like that of California. The application was made on the 8th day of May last, but owing to my absence in the other reservations, I could not until now give it my attention. The bond, dated May 20, 1851, in the penal sum of \$3,000, regularly filled up with William J. Howard and John M. Montgomery, of Mariposa county, as sureties, is approved by me, having entire confidence in its sufficiency.

There was an application of Black & Morgan which reached me, but too late for consideration. I have placed him upon the reservation, under the license, at \$1,000 per annum from its date, June 10, 1851. Hoping my apology for the hurried and irregular proceedings of issuing the license before transmitting it to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as required by the second section of the act of June 2, 1834, may be found in the absolute necessity of placing an authorized trader among the Indians,

I remain your obedient servant,

ADAM JOHNSTON,
Sub-Indian Agent, Valley of San Joaquin.

Hon. LUKE LEA,
Washington City.

MERCEDE RIVER, *May 8, 1851.*

DEAR SIR: Having understood that you are the proper officer or agent of the United States to make application to for license and authority to trade with the Indians settled on the reservation between the Mercede and Tuolumne rivers, I, George G. Belt, of Stockton, California, do hereby make application to trade with the Indians of said reservation. The place at which I desire to establish a trading-post is

104

S. Doc. 4.

on the Merced river, at a point known as Howard's Ferry. The amount of capital which I propose employing in trade will be from six to eight thousand dollars. The only person whom I expect to employ in my service immediately is my brother, Upton Belt, as a clerk. Should it become necessary to employ others hereafter, their names, and all necessary information, will be promptly furnished you.

I am, my dear sir, respectfully yours, &c.,

GEO. G. BELT.

Col. A. JOHNSTON,
Indian Agent.
