

DISBURSING AGENCY INDIAN DEPARTMENT IN CALIFORNIA,  
San Francisco, July 1, 1852.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by the last mail, of your favor of 17th ult., and in compliance with your request, enclose No. 1, my account current, with accompanying vouchers, to this date, balance against the government \$4,313 68. No. 2, schedule of debts due to others, amount \$32,069 79, and an estimate of some unadjusted claims and liabilities, which may require the additional sum of \$5,750.

Since I transmitted my account to the 5th February, I have made several remittances to the temporary agent in Scott's valley, on account of his salary, and for expenses; but as the state of things in that quarter since the snow on the mountain trails rendered travelling possible, has not, in his opinion and that of his friends, allowed of his absence, even long enough to visit this city to settle his accounts, and having no facilities at present for making a journey into that remote part of my district, I omit these items in the present account. Besides, for reasons which you will appreciate, I prefer the superintendent, if he arrives in any reasonable time, should pass upon his accounts rather than myself. This schedule will give you all the debts or liabilities of which I have any official knowledge. With the cattle or other contracts of Messrs. Barbour, Wozencraft and Johnston, I have in no way participated, and disapprove of the course by which it appears they have implicated themselves, if not the department, as fully as yourself. To the extent of a few hundred head of Spanish cattle, for the southern tribes, involving an amount of perhaps twelve, fifteen or twenty thousand dollars, their disregard of instructions might possibly have been justified by the particular circumstances of the country, but for buying cattle in such numbers, mainly for the purpose of feeding Indians then and now mining for, or working in the ranches of individuals or firms upon the Fresno, or San Joaquin, at enormous prices, and averaged at 500 pounds each, *on the hoof*, I can imagine no possible necessity or justification. It is known to every cattle dealer that Spanish cattle in droves or herds *average* only about four hundred pounds nett. In the spring of 1851, when in that country I had occasion to purchase for the board three or four hundred head of large picked cattle for those very tribes, partly on contract, at forty dollars per head; (several head being thrown in to make up the average weight by estimate, five hundred pounds) that was the highest rate asked, with the understanding that if the appropriation of \$75,000, was not granted, the contractor was to wait another year for his money. For cash in hand I could have purchased any number at a much lower rate,—indeed ranche owners in the southern part of the State were offering freely their best grown picked cattle, at from twelve to sixteen dollars per head; and at forty dollars I am sure I could have contracted for fifty thousand, deliverable at *any point in that or the middle district*. But those I bought, with such provisions as the Indians might earn by their work, added to their own supplies of nuts, fish, &c., &c., it was thought would meet their wants until the treaties were ratified.

These facts I deem it my duty to report without prejudice or interest in the matter of any kind, pecuniary or personal, other than what is necessarily involved in the general character and success of our negotiations. I

confess to a feeling of deep regret and mortification, that through the unauthorized acts of my colleagues and sub-agent Johnston, the department should be involved in the trouble of thankless investigations, and the general system adopted by the commissioners for the pacification and improvement of the California Indians, if not endangered at least delayed. The system agreed on when our first treaties were made, and which I presume has been adhered to in all, I believe to be eminently judicious, humane, and economical. With a provision for the alterations of the boundaries or location of some of the reservations in the valley of the Sacramento, these compacts should, I think, be ratified and carried out in good faith by our government with all practicable despatch. In all the discussions which have arisen upon the subject in this country, in the legislature or elsewhere, no attempt has been made to show any material defect in the plan, or to substitute a better. As to removing and colonizing the tribes of California beyond the limits of the State, the idea is simply ridiculous. In the first place we have no vacant district or country to send them to. In the second place, all the white men in California, aided by the entire army of the United States, could not drive them out, or if driven out, keep them from running back to their old hunting and fishing ground, acorn orchards, &c. The only thing that can be done with them is to colonize and improve them upon small reservations or districts of this their own, "their native land;" or as an alternative, to exterminate and kill them off. I have repeatedly called the attention of the public men of this State to this view of the subject by public addresses before the legislature, and by means of the press, without provoking a re-tation, or what could be called a show of argument in reply.

To a vast majority of the educated and intelligent people of California our general plan is quite satisfactory, I may add, by them highly approved; and from no quarter has any *other or better one been proposed*.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

REDICK MCKEE.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs. Washington.*

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*Schedule of debts due and payable at San Francisco by the disbursing agent of Indian Affairs, in California.*

1851.			
May	20	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft—Thos. W. Lane.....	\$1,825 00
	20	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, endorsed to J. White.....	1,050 00
June	10	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft—Thos. W. Lane.....	500 00
July	26	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft—Thos. W. Lane.....	1,500 00
Oct.	1	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft—J. C. Edwards.....	479 12
Aug.	7	J. Joseph's bill for hard bread.....	401 20
	7	Moorehead, Waddington and Whitehead for flour for Southern and Sacramento treaties.....	676 00
May	15	Don Pablo de la Toba for 201 head of cattle for Merced and San Joaquin tribes, assigned to different holders of his drafts or order.....	8,040 00
Dec.	31	G. M. Marshall, certificate for beef on Northern Expedition, (subject to credits).....	6,598 47
1852.			
Jan.	8	John M. Estell's certificate for.....	2,000 00
Jan.	3	do.....do.....	1,000 00
Feb.		Chenery & Hubbard for 100 head of large cattle for Russian River tribes.....	4,000 00
Feb.		Chenery & Hubbard for 100 head of large cattle for Clear Lake.....	4,000 00
			32,069 79

NOTE.—Accounts of the latter not yet fully adjusted; may be a few dollars more or less.

I gave Marshall a letter to you, submitting that, if equally convenient, his certificate might be paid at Washington. Circumstances have since made it proper that the payment should be made *here*, and I will thank you to refer him to this office for settlement.

R. MCKEE.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 1, 1852.

*Estimated liabilities other than per Treaty stipulations.*

Scott & Montgomery claim \$950 for 19 head of cattle delivered to Merced Indians per A. Johnston and J. H. Mark's certificates. I claim as an offset that 17 head of cattle, previously paid for, ran back to their rancho, and that we owe them but for 2 steers, say \$100. I have made several attempts to have the matter settled, one by arbitration, but the referees could not agree; the matter remains open, awaiting the return of Mr. Montgomery from the States, say.....	\$950 00
J. M. Estell for thirty sacks of flour, freight, &c., designed as a present to the Clear Lake tribes. Invoice, &c., mislaid by his agent, say.....	400 00
John McKee, temporary agent, in Scott's and Shaster's valleys, salary, extra allowance, subsistence, travelling expenses, pay of interpreters, &c., say.....	4,000 00
Geo. Packer Armstrong, temporary agent for Russian River and Clear Lake tribes, though not under pay, has nevertheless devoted much time and labor as interpreter, &c., for which I think he should be rewarded; he will be useful hereafter; I propose paying him \$300 or \$400.....	400 00
	5,750 00
Geo. Gibbs's claim for extra service on Journal and maps heretofore submitted for instructions.....	500 00
Union office, Sacramento, printing account.....	