

bear in mind that I called for, in former statements, \$1,000 for each of the reservations, in order to compensate those who take charge of affairs, &c.; and I am in hopes that house-rent will be allowed me.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,

United States Indian Agent.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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 ultimo, 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 accounts 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 my 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 perhaps of \$12,000, \$15,000, or \$20,000, their disregard of instructions might possibly have been justified by the peculiar 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 on the ranchos 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 400 pounds net.

In the spring of 1851, when in that country, I had occasion to purchase for the board some 300 or 400 head of large picked cattle, for those very tribes, partly on contract at \$40 per head, (several head being thrown in to make up the average weight, by estimate 500 pounds;) that was the highest rate asked, with the understanding that if the appro-

priation 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, full-grown, picked cattle, at from \$12 to \$16 per head; and at \$40 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 investigation, 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 alteration 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 territory 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 grounds, 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, 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 either a refutation, 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 most 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 the Department of Indian Affairs in California.

1851.		
May 20	R. McKee's acceptance of G. W. Barbour's draft, Th. W. Lane....	\$1,625 00
	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, Th. W. Lane....	500 00
July 26do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....	1,500 00
Oct. 1do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....	479 12
Aug. 7	J. Joseph, bill of hard bread.....	461 20
	Moorehead, Waddington, & Whitehead, for flour for Southern and Sacramento treaties.....	676 00
May 15	Don Pablo de la Toba, for 201 head cattle for Merced and San Joaquin tribes, assigned to different holders of his draft or orders.....	8,040 00
Dec. 31	G. M. Marshall, certificate for beef on northern expedition, subject to credit.....	6,598 47
1852.		
Jan. 3	J. M. Estelle, certificate for.....	2,000 00
do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....	1,000 00
Feb.....	Chenery & Hubbard, for 100 head large cattle for Russian River tribes.....	4,000 00
	Ditto, for same for Clear Lake tribes.....	4,000 00
	[Accounts of the latter not yet fully adjusted—may be a few dollars more or less.]	
		32,069 79

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. McK.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 1, 1852.

Estimated liabilities other than per treaty stipulations.

Scott & Montgomery claim \$950 for 19 head of cattle delivered to the Merced Indians, per A. Johnston's and J. H. Marks's certificates.—[I claim as an offset, that 17 head of cattle previously paid for ran back to their ranche, and that we owe them for but 2 steers—say \$100. I have made several attempts to have the matter settled—once 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. Estelle, for some 30 sacks flour, freight, &c., designed as a present to the Clear Lake tribes; invoice, &c., mislaid by his agent—say.....	400 00
Jno. McKee, temporary agent in Scott's and Shasta valleys; salary, extra allowance, subsistence, travelling expenses, pay of interpreters, &c.—say.....	4,000 00
Geo. Parker Armstrong, ditto 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 00
Geo. Gibbs's claim for extra services on journal and map, heretofore submitted for instructions, \$540; Union office, Sacramento, printing account.....	
	5,750 00