

---

SAN FRANCISCO, July 10, 1851.

DEAR SIR: Another mail has arrived, and I am again disappointed in the receipt of letters or remittances from the Indian department at Washington. Why the money appropriated for our use in California has not been forwarded, in checks on your office, or express authority given to me to draw for it, is beyond my power of *guessing*. The only excuse I can think of is absence or illness of Mr. Lea, the head of the Indian bureau. But even in that case, his chief clerk would have received our letters and seen the necessity of advising us one way or the other.

You are already apprized that it has been with the utmost difficulty we have been able to do anything in the line of official duty for the last two months, for want of funds; and without your kind assistance in advancing me \$1,000 for Dr. Wozencraft last month, he could not have visited the disturbed district on Sacramento river at a very critical time.

Some ten days since, a Mr. Walter Vandyke arrived here "express" with letters to Governor McDougal and myself, in relation to the Indian disturbances in the northern part of the State, and urged my immediate departure to that country. Of course I could not move without funds, though my escort has been ready for some weeks. Yesterday another "express" arrived (William Heyl, esq., formerly of Philadelphia) with the proceedings of another public meeting at Trinidad, and strong letters to the governor and myself, copies of which I enclose, calling for assistance in the way of arms and ammunition, if troops could not be furnished. I have, in view of the exigencies of the case, interested myself in their behalf so as to obtain for them a supply of arms, &c., for immediate personal defence, and the assurance of General Hitchcock that he will at an early day establish among them, at some proper point, a small military post. This is what is wanted, to repress the excitement and irregularities of both whites and Indians; and, from what I can learn, they are equally to blame. I promised Mr. Heyl that the moment I could raise funds I would set out for Trinidad, and at least use every exertion to settle the difficulties and restore quiet on that frontier. I am fully persuaded not only that the credit of our whig administration is involved in my early arrival and success, but also the lives of many of our people, as well as of Indians, and very possibly the existence or avoidance of a long, vexatious, expensive Indian war. But what can I do? Every movement in this country, as you well know, involves a large expenditure, and our exchequer is empty. I have made inquiry in the market about selling a

bill on the Indian department, but funds are wanted *here* for the purchase of gold dust, not *there*, and six or eight per cent. discount is asked; besides this, it is quite doubtful whether the government would allow me the exchange lost, without a controversy.

I see no alternative, therefore, but to be idle and let things take their course, or again to appeal to your regard for the public welfare, and ask you to "take the responsibility" and advance me, as disbursing agent of the commission, the amount of the appropriations approved February 27, 1851: say—

For compensation, &c.....	\$6,750
For making treaties .....	25,000

I think you may do this with entire safety, for if the funds have been forwarded from Washington it will have been done in checks on yourself. If you do not feel at liberty to advance the whole amount, so as to enable me to pay off our liabilities for expenses already incurred and accruing, a smaller sum, not, however, less than \$5,000, will meet the present emergency.

From the success which has already crowned our efforts in the middle and southern part of the State, I am not without hope that my visit to the north will be useful. Before I can go I must, however, have funds to purchase some provisions, &c., for presents, and to defray the expenses of my party.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

R. McKEE.

Hon. TH. BUTLER KING, *Collector*.

[ On this letter were added the following:

I am decidedly of opinion that the emergencies of the case are such, as not only to justify the collector in making the advance asked for by Colonel McKee, but to make it his duty to "take the responsibility" of doing so.

ALLEN A. HALL.

I fully concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Hall.

SAM. D. KING.

I am decidedly of the same opinion of Messrs. Hall and King, and, so far as I am concerned, will use whatever efforts of mine that I can make to satisfy the department of the absolute necessity of the course Colonel McKee wishes to carry out.

I spent some two months in that region last winter, and know something about the Indians there, and the great necessity of having some action taken by the commissioners.

Yours,

JOHN WILSON.

The alarming state of affairs in the northern portion of the State—the danger of a general Indian war there, as well as in Oregon—in my opinion, justifies the advance asked for the immediate necessities of the case—say \$5,000. As to the policy that has been or may be adopted by

**120**

**S. Doc. 4.**

the agents or the commissioners in their treaties with the Indians, I express no opinion; and although I may entirely differ with the agents and commissioners as to the policy they have or may adopt, yet I fully justify the collector in placing funds at the disposal of the recognised officers of the government to carry out the views of Congress in making the appropriation, according to their judgment and upon their responsibility.

**WM. M. GWIN.**