

No. 56½.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, August 7, 1861.*

SIR: You have been appointed special agent of the Indian department, connected with its affairs in California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, and, having accepted that appointment, and filed in this office your official bond, satisfactorily executed, it only remains for the department to furnish you with some general instructions, as the nature of your mission is such that much must be left to your well-matured judgment and knowledge of Indian character to guide you in the discharge of your duties when you shall have arrived at your starting point in California.

As the great object of your mission is to restore peace and harmony between the whites and Indians in northern California, it is expected that all reasonable

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and prudent means will be resorted to by you to secure a state of things so desirable; and, in this connexion, I have to advise that the superintending agent of the district, George M. Hanson, esq., has been addressed upon the subject, and informed that steps had been taken to procure the co-operation of the troops stationed the most convenient to him in his efforts to suppress alleged outbreaks between the whites and Indians, and to restore peace and quiet among them.

You will therefore put yourself in communication with Mr. Hanson with a view of availing yourself of his co-operation in the enterprise you have undertaken, and of affording him also the benefit of your advice and experience in Indian affairs, that, by concert of action between you, the best result may be obtained.

You are also instructed to visit all the Indian tribes on the coast where there appears to be difficulties arising between them and the white people, and take such steps as, in your judgment, are best calculated to restore peace, and, at the same time, assure the Indians that it is the settled policy of the government to protect them so long as they are peaceable and act in good faith toward the whites.

It has been represented to this department that most if not all the difficulties that have arisen between the whites and Indians in California were, in the first place, instigated by mischievous, idle, and vicious white men, and it is believed and expected that you can put a stop to these wicked raids on the helpless red men of that coast; but, if to do this will require further legislation by Congress, you will be expected to make such suggestions in the premises as the character and condition of things shall dictate. Humanity calls for a change in the condition of things connected with our Indian affairs on that coast, as well as the extensive and numerous frauds which it is believed have been yearly practiced and charged to the government. It is also believed that great injustice has been done the government by an overestimate of the number of Indians residing in California, with the view of obtaining large appropriations, and the establishment of agencies where they are really unnecessary. You are therefore instructed to procure a full and reliable statement of the total number of Indians in that State, and also the number of men, women, and children. It is also desirable to procure the same information in Oregon and Washington Territory, provided time will permit before the meeting of the next Congress.

Your own judgment will suggest the propriety as well as the necessity of great caution on your part to avoid all misunderstanding or unkind feelings between you and the superintendents and Indian agents located in the countries you are expected to visit.

The nature of your mission does not necessarily come in contact with their duties further than the extension of mutual aid in promoting the public good.

The necessary steps have been taken to have placed in your hands the sum of \$500, from the appropriation "incidental expenses of the Indian service in California," for which you will account accordingly; arrangements will however be made through the respective superintendents to supply you with additional funds from time to time, as they are earned, also to provide means, if necessary, for feeding the Indians when they shall be assembled to meet you.

Your compensation will be at the rate of \$5 per diem, to commence on the day you leave your residence in California to proceed on the discharge of your duties, and, while travelling in the execution thereof, you will be allowed your actual necessary travelling expenses, for which you will take vouchers when practicable, and when impracticable keep an itemized account of the same, to be rendered to this office with your accounts.

In conclusion, I have to remark that the department will expect that the business with which you are instructed will not be unnecessarily prolonged, and, as at present impressed, I am of opinion that the mission you have undertaken

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may be satisfactorily closed in ninety days from the time you leave your residence in California.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

Dr. ELIJAH WHITE,

*Special Agent, Lorejoy's Hotel, New York.*

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