
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, August 9, 1851.

SIR: Your letter of the 30th June last, with accompanying papers, was received at this office on the 7th instant. In one of the accompanying papers—your letter to Mr. Wozencraft of the 4th June—you state, “nor has the department ever condescended to acknowledge the receipt of a single communication from me since I left New York.”

It is proper, therefore, as these remarks have been submitted to the consideration of this office, that I should state, where cause of complaint exists against the department, it should be first made known to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and I deem it proper also to add, that your attention to this matter is called, not so much on account of the complaint referred to in your letter to your late colleague, but because, from your letter to this office, you state the fact of having “written to Mr. Stuart, Secretary of the Interior,” and “gone more fully into this subject (the one upon which you were then addressing this office,) and some other transactions of a kindred character;” to all of which you say you feel it your duty to call the attention of the Commissioner. It is because of these remarks that I call your attention to page 27 of the “office copy of the laws, regulations, &c., of the Indian Bureau for 1850,” with which you have been furnished, and to paragraph 126, which reads as follows: “All communications on Indian affairs must be directed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.” In future, there-

fore, I would suggest that, whether there be cause of complaint, as indicated in your letter to Mr. Wozencraft, or suggestions touching Indian relations proper to be communicated to the Secretary of the Interior, as appears from your letter to this office, you will adopt the requirement of the paragraph in the regulations referred to, and address the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for obvious reasons the proper and only channel of communication between all agents for Indians and the head of this department.

Owing to the great press of business upon this office, consequent upon the reorganization of the department of Indian affairs, in accordance with the late act of Congress, it was not until the 12th of April last that the Commissioner advised your joint commission that your offices and functions as commissioners were abrogated and annulled, and was able to give you such instructions as were deemed necessary under the present organization.

On the 9th May you were again addressed by this office, and referred to the Commissioner's previous communication. On the 23d June your letter of the 13th, and a joint letter from your commission of the 1st May, were received. In the former you referred to the want of funds, the meagreness of the appropriation made by Congress, and stated that thereafter each of you would act on his own judgment and responsibility.

The day after the receipt of these communications, \$7,500 were remitted to you on account of your and the pay of agents Wozencraft and Barbour, the pay for interpreters, and incidental expenses to each; and the day thereafter this office remitted to you, and of which you were advised, \$25,000—the whole amount of the appropriation for holding treaties with the various tribes of Indians in California. On the 27th of the same month another communication was addressed to you, in reply to the two letters just referred to. I make this statement in order that you may see that there was no neglect on the part of this office to communicate; and will only add, that where your individual communications, or those from your joint commission, remained unanswered, it was because answers, under the circumstances, were not deemed necessary.

- It is hoped that long ere this the remittances referred to have been received by you, and that agents Wozencraft, Barbour, and yourself have again resumed active operations among the Indian tribes of California, as far as the means placed at the disposal of this department by Congress will enable you to do.

With regard to the agreement and award thereon entered into between Mr. Adam Johnston, sub-agent, &c., and Messrs. Stone & Marks, to which you call attention, I have to state that it will receive due consideration; and the conclusions of this department in reference to it will be made known to you upon the return of the Secretary of the Interior, who is now temporarily absent from Washington.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner, ad interim.

REDICK MCKEE, Esq.,
Agent, &c., San Francisco, California.