

Received, Los Angeles, May 20, 1852, of O. M. Wozencraft, United States Indian agent, three thousand dollars, (\$3,000,) in full, by draft on Indian department, for the above account.

LITTLETON & JOHNSTON.

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SAN FRANCISCO, *September 30, 1852.*

SIR: Acting Commissioner Mix's letter of 5th ultimo was received by the last steamer. As my accounts, vouchers, &c., for the quarter ending 30th June, were forwarded to your office by special order, and as superintendent Beale arrived here only within the present month, and says he is not apprized of your views as to the allowance of my expenses for board, &c., after consultation with him, I have concluded to forward also to your office, for examination and settlement, my accounts for the quarter ending this day, so far as I am able to make them up; (see enclosure A, and accompanying vouchers.) Balance against the government, \$7,038 55.

As it regards this matter of my expenses for board, &c., the superintendent here should have definite instructions. Unless the department continues to recognise and pay them, under the general head of "travelling expenses," as provided for in our original instructions, it will be impossible for me, or any other general agent with a family, to subsist respectably in this country on the salary allowed by law. My object in taking a room here in a private boarding-house, while awaiting the action of Congress, and the receipt of means to enable me to visit several remote portions of my district, was to economize my expenses as much as possible. They have been far less than they would have been in travelling, or even living at a tavern in the interior, remote from market.

For several months past my secretary has been desirous of being discharged, in order that he might engage in less dangerous, and at the same time more lucrative employment; but the state of things on the Klamath and Shasta rivers, and in Scott's valley, seemed to render the presence of some official, or *semi-official*, necessary to preserve the peace of the country; at least until a military post should be established. Such has been the universal sentiment among the most intelligent American citizens. In reference to this I have had repeated communications with General Hitchcock, the commander of the Pacific division; and he has also been waited on by several delegations from that country, urging the necessity for military protection. My secretary having some knowledge of the Indian language, and enjoying very fully the respect and confidence of the chiefs, as well as of the whites, has been enabled to settle amicably numerous disputes, which might have led to open war, and has thus indirectly saved the country an untold amount of difficulty and expense. At length, say during the present month, Gen. Hitchcock has ordered up into Siskiyou country a detachment of dragoons under Major Fitzgerald, an experienced officer; and learning from Mr. Beale that no provision would be made at the late session of Congress for carrying out the treaties made with the Indians in that quarter, I immediately wrote to Mr. John McKee, releasing him from further

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duty, and directing him to forward to this place his accounts, &c., to the present date. He has sent me receipts for his regular salary, and for the amount advanced on account of his expenses, subsistence, pay of interpreters, &c., which will be enclosed with other vouchers. Owing to the absence of the interpreter and other parties on a scout along the emigrant trail, he could not make up his detailed account. When received, it shall be forwarded to your office.

At present I have no person in my employ under pay. For several months I have been desirous of visiting that part of my district, but without funds this was impracticable. When I heard of Maj. Fitzgerald's order to march from the San Joaquin, I thought of joining the expedition; but the rigid economy now prevailing in the commissariat of the army in California, prevents our depending upon it even for ordinary transportation. It was suggested to General Hitchcock by Mr. Beale, but he deemed it inexpedient, and the matter was not pressed. I suppose, if the truth were told, our late correspondence about his reports to the War Department has not pre-disposed the old gentleman to go out of his way to promote my *convenience*. The next steamer due here, about the 5th proximo, will bring the first mails after the adjournment of Congress, and I hope then to receive a remittance from your office. As you will have learned from my late letters and accounts, I am greatly in need of funds; indeed, for several months I have been dependent upon the personal kindness of my bankers, Messrs. Tallant and Wilde, for advances to defray my expenses, and without the ability to transmit a dollar to my family in Virginia. Agreeably to instructions, I shall report all accounts of new or accruing transactions through the superintendent appointed for this State, who has opened an office in this city.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
REDICK McKEE.

HON. LUKE LEA,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City.*

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