

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, October 15, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, by which you will find that your functions and salaries as Indian agents are suspended; and that you are appointed, with the sanction of the President, commissioners "to hold treaties with various Indian tribes in the State of California," as provided in the act of Congress approved September 30, 1850. Your commissions are also enclosed.

Your compensation, as provided by law, will be eight dollars per day for every day you are actually employed, and ten cents per mile for your travel, by the usually travelled route, to your place of destination. After your arrival in the country in which your duties lie, you will be allowed your actual travelling expenses from place to place, where duty may call you.

You will be allowed a secretary, to be appointed by you after your arrival in California, whose compensation must not exceed five dollars per day for his services, and his actual travelling expenses will be allowed.

It is not probable that his services will be required for the whole time, continuously, and you will therefore employ him only for such time as may be actually necessary.

The services of interpreters will be indispensable in your negotiations. You are therefore authorized to employ such number, and for such periods, as you may find requisite, confining yourselves to the smallest number, for the shortest periods, and for the lowest compensation that competent persons can be obtained for. These precautions of economy are made solely with reference to the small amount of the appropriation, when compared with the great object to be attained.

The first named gentleman of your board, being present, has been intrusted with the duties of disbursing agent of the commission, and the sum of \$25,000, the whole amount of the appropriation, has been placed in his hands for disbursement. The other two commissioners, together with all other expenses of the commission, will be paid by him.

You will find, on your arrival in California, Adam Johnston, esq., sub-agent at San Joachim, from whom you will doubtless receive much

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valuable information, as his residence in the country for considerable more than a year has enabled him to collect a great deal relating to the Indian tribes, their location, their manners, habits, customs, disposition towards the whites and each other, and the extent of civilization to which they have arrived. Mr. Johnston will be directed to afford you all the aid in his power, and give you all the information in his possession, that may be of use to you in the discharge of your duties.

The department is in possession of little or no information respecting the Indians of California, except what is contained in the enclosed copies of papers, a list of which is appended to these instructions; but whether even these contain sufficient data to entitle them to full confidence will be for you to judge, and they are given to you merely as points of reference.

As set forth in the law creating the commission, and the letter of the Secretary of the Interior, the object of the government is to obtain all the information it can with reference to tribes of Indians within the boundaries of California, their manners, habits, customs, and extent of civilization, and to make such treaties and compacts with them as may seem just and proper. On the arrival of Mr. McKee and Mr. Barbour in California, they will notify Mr. Wozencraft of their readiness to enter upon the duties of the mission. The board will convene, and, after obtaining whatever light may be within its reach, will determine upon some rule of action which will be most efficient in attaining the desired object, which is, by all possible means, to conciliate the good feelings of the Indians, and to get them to ratify those feelings by entering into written treaties, binding on them, towards the government and each other. You will be able to judge whether it will be best for you to act in a body, or separately, in different parts of the Indian country.

It is expected that you will keep a journal of your daily proceedings, and report fully to this office everything that occurs in your operations. Copies of these reports you will forward from time to time, the whole to be reserved by you for a general report, accompanied by such treaties as you may make, when your mission shall have been brought to a close.

Another commission has been authorized, consisting of Messrs. C. S. Todd, Robert B. Campbell, and Oliver P. Temple, to procure information and make treaties with the Indians on the borders of Mexico. Should you meet at any time, which is scarcely to be expected, you will co-operate and act in concert, so far as may be agreed on between you; and it is requested that, whenever this may be the case, there will be no misunderstanding as to your relative powers, or collision in your understanding of your relative duties; it being regarded that each board is independent of the other, and it is expected that all intercourse between them will be harmonious.

Yours, &c.,

A. S. LOUGHERY,
Acting Commissioner.

Messrs. REDICK MCKEE,
GEO. W. BARROUR, } *Commissioners.*
O. M. WOZENCRAFT, }