
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,
November 14, 1851.

SIR: I would wish to embrace the present opportunity of sending a few lines to the department, in order to state that no communications have been received from the department in answer to those sent by me as far back as June last—since which time I have sent forward a number of treaties, quarterly returns, and communications. Several communications have been received from the department within the above time, which were duly answered; but no mention was made of the reception of said accounts. Please inform me whether or no they came to hand.

It may be as well, in future, to address them *directly* to me at San Francisco, as it subjects the collector of the port to some unnecessary inconvenience in taking charge of them.

I am now awaiting the arrival of Colonel McKee, who has been expected here for some time past, in order that I may draw my quota of the appropriation. I then expect to re-visit several of the reservations, with a view of further securing a perpetuity of peace, now happily existing throughout the district. In order to do which, it is all-important to go among them frequently, re-assuring them of our good faith and feelings towards them, and at the same time maintaining a vigilant watch over them. This will be indispensably necessary, for some time to come; and here much will depend on the capacity and integrity of those persons who are to remain among them as licensed traders, instructors, &c.

Knowing, as I do, the great importance of making judicious selections of persons to fill those important situations, I have been slow to choose, and careful in making that choice. So far I have made but two appointments for the full term allowed by law; they are both old residents, and have great influence with the Indians—Mr. Samuel Norris, with Mr. E. L. Lovell as his partner, and Major P. B. Reading. In the reservations which they have charge of, there need be no fear of Indian disturbances so long as they are at their post. I will forward, by next mail, all particulars, as required by law, in relation to the above-named appointees.

As stated in a former communication, I have granted licenses to several individuals for a short time, deeming it well to grant temporary licenses to those who were at the time trading with the Indians, until I could satisfy myself of the expediency of continuing them or appointing others.

It is to be hoped that the treaties will be ratified at an early date, so that we can be informed of the fact here *before seed-time*. If this is not

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done by that time, I should be pleased to have some instructions in relation to furnishing them with those articles that are indispensable to their existence.

I should be pleased, likewise, that a small appropriation be made, at an early date, in order to enable me to visit those Indians east of the Sierra Nevada, and within the range of mountains. This subject was urged in my last communication. I again revert to it as a subject of great moment. From discoveries made this last summer, I am well satisfied that there is a *pass* in the *Sierra Nevada* range of mountains *that can be travelled at all seasons of the year*, so far as snow is an obstacle—the rainy season alone will be an obstacle by softening the earth—and *at a grade that will permit loaded wagons passing without difficulty*. This is of vast importance to the State; and we think it would be well for the federal government to take the first step in directing the emigration of 1852 through this advantageous pass. I propose going through this pass in visiting those Indians yet to be treated with.

Respectfully, your very obedient servant,

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,

U. S. Indian Agent, Middle District, California.

Hon. LUKE LEA,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
