

California 1859

Hon Wm M Swin

San Francisco. May 20/59

Encloses letters of Supt Henry
M B Lewis & Eugen Kelly & Co.
and calls attention to Indian affairs
in Cal.

Respectfully referred to the Comm^r of
Indian Affairs for his information.

Interior

June 14/59

Moses Kelly
clerk

Rec'd June 14. '59

14

June

file

Rec'd 14 June 59
Wm. Bailey

San Francisco May 20th '59

Hon Jacob Thompson

Secretary of the Interior

for

I respectfully call your attention to the enclosed letters. Since my arrival at home I have been often approached with complaints of the delay in making payment for purchases made for the Indian Department. These complaints are so universal that I brought the subject to the notice of Col. Hensley by sending the enclosed letters, which with his reply accompany this letter.

I cannot too strongly impress upon you the necessity of promptly transmitting the funds to the amount indicated in the Superintendent's letter. From San Diego purchases have been made under the certain expectation of early payment and many of the parties are seriously injured ~~by~~ the delay of ~~payment~~. Each of the Agents & Sub Agents have given bonds, and can make

the disbursement as well as the Superintendent. In fact
the whole amount would be disbursed in a few days.

The sum of \$200,000 having been appropriated for the
service of the Indian Department in this state for this
fiscal year and none of it having been disbursed
it will cause a great clamor if these accounts are
not speedily paid

Indian affairs are in a deplorable condition
in this state. The Indians are stealing & burning
houses, and the white men killing them in revenge.

The Governor is ordering out volunteers and
the ~~Indian~~ War debt for this year will largely
exceed the amount appropriated by Congress. The
extermination of the Indians is inevitable unless the
reserves are kept up as a protection and the Indians
made to labor for them or some other system devised
to support them without depending upon the
property of our citizens

With great respect

Yours truly

Wm. M. Gwin

Office Supt Indian Affairs.
San Francisco Cal^o
May 19. 1859.

Hon W^m M. Gwin

Sir:

In answer to your enquiries of this morning referring to the letters of Sub Agent Lewis and Eugene Kelly & Co., I have to say that the appropriation for the Indian service in Cal^o for the fiscal year ending 30th June next, is of 202,000 - no part of which has yet been remitted for Expenditure.

The service has been conducted upon credit based upon the good character for promptness which the Department has hitherto borne in Cal^o, and the individual credit of the Agents.

In addition to this I have made some purchases myself, for which I have been compelled to give my individual note. (see letter of Eugene Kelly & Co.) It was expected that Mr. Mc Duffie the newly appointed Superintendent would on his arrival here
(have

have been provided with funds for the settlement of these claims, but, no arrangement of that kind having been made, and that fact being now generally known to the creditors of the Agents suits are threatened against them and I have no doubt will be instituted in numerous cases. A large amount of the claims are now hypothecated at 5 per cent per month, which if there is much longer delay will absorb the largest portion of them, and many honest citizens & will be utterly ruined. The creditors of the Department are mostly laborers and men of small means, and the disastrous effect this delay is having upon them cannot be adequately described.

It is probable that the course intended to be pursued is to await the filing of the official bond of Mr. Mc Duffie and then require of him an estimate of the amount of funds required. But it is uncertain when Mr. Mc Duffie will be ready to file his bond, and after that it would be necessary for him to wait for reports from the Agents before his
(Estimates

estimates could be submitted. This would occasion a delay which in many instances would result in the complete ruin of many of those to whom money is due. My estimates on file in the Dept at Washington will show the amount necessary for expenditure this year. But an immediate remittance of one half the Appropriation, say of \$101,000-, would probably pay the present indebtedness, and save a large number of persons from bankruptcy.

To obviate all difficulties which exists in regard to the informality as to the certificates to my bond or the delay in getting Sup't Mc Duffies estimates, I would suggest that the remittances can be made directly to the Agents, to be accounted for by them under the proper heads of Expenditure, and, that the sums necessary for immediate disbursement are

for Home Lactee & Home Cult.	V. E. Geiger Agent	\$ 40,000-
for Klamath	Dr. E. Buel "	\$ 10,000-
for Fresno & Kings Rivers	M. B. Lewis "	\$ 15,000-
for Tejon	J. R. Vinford "	\$ 15,000-
for Mendocino	A. L. Ford ab.	\$ 25,000-
making a total of		\$ 105,000-

I have been earnestly requested to urge upon you, by the parties interested, the importance of speedy action, and to solicit your aid in procuring the necessary relief - and I submit the subject now for such action as you may deem it proper to take.

I need scarcely mention that our elections are approaching, and the opposition always unscrupulous would be able to take advantage of the present state of things, and render the subject very embarrassing in the contest.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Thos J Henley
Sup Indr Affs.

San Francisco May 4/59

Dear Sir

The first sum for Complaint
is an order for addressing from the Com
Munition - We have sold goods
Cash prices to the Supt of Indian Affairs
in California to the Amt of Twenty
Thousand & fifteen ¹⁰⁰ \$2715.10
the first payment was made in May '58 the
in May of this year from which you will see
a portion of the amt is due one year on
1st April last we closed the acc by taking
Henry's individual note at four mos from
date for the amt without interest - In
addition to which we hold the following
H S Heintzelman's debt for \$405.20 dated Oct 1858
H L Ford's debt Mendocino \$404.56 Jan 27/59
and T. C. Gysin - Mendocino \$534.00 Mar 1858
in all four thousand one hundred & eighteen ⁹³
Dollars \$4118.93 - the two last mentioned drafts
we took from other parties in Cash at the time
of their date - Where Money Commands from

\$20.25 per month, we think you had agreed
with us, that payments delayed as long as
there have been, is decidedly unjust, as
every dollar of the amt bill'd by us has been
given the full value for without abatement
of any nature whatsoever. Our object in
addressing you, is the hope that proper repre-
sentation, to the Department at Washington of the
condition of the financial affairs of the
Indian Department in this State, may have the
desired effect of cancelling in debt
such as we hold, as we are informed
appropriation have long since been made, but
through neglect, misapprehension or other cause, nothing
to this date has been done

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt

J. M. Kelly, Esq.

Mr Wm W. Gwin
Metropolitan Hotel

Fresno Indian Farm

April 9th 1859

Hon Wm M Swin

Dear Sir:

For the reason that a seeming neglect on the part of the Government, or at least a deaf ear to the frequent Charitable appeals from this Agency for relief has rendered all efforts on my part to protect its interests from the most disastrous consequences futile, and for the reasons that the emergencies now existing for real or temporary relief are daily becoming more serious, it is deemed by myself and Creditors not amiss to task your known kindness with a few inquiries as to the prospects for the future. - We are much in the dark, and would feel gratified for a little light on a subject, in which our mutual interests are much involved.

Nine Months of this fiscal Year have passed and gone, during which time, all the ceremonies and exercise of an Indian war and termination of peace,

except actual collision with arms, has been experienced by the contending parties, within the bounds of this Agency. In which disturbances, there was agreeable to the best information that I have been able to obtain, more Indians engaged than was in any of the Indian disturbances in the Southern portion of Oregon, or Northern limits of this State. Where Government troops were called into the Service, and execution actually done, During which troubles and excitement, I may not be vain, in saying that my personal attention, & vigilance in the matter, did in all probability prevent an Indian War, which might have resulted in serious injuries done the Whites, and a partial extermination of some seven Tribes of Indians, with the consequences that might have followed such human calamities.

Notwithstanding the unavoidable expense always dependent on such emergencies, and my urgent appeals from this Agency for relief, none have been afforded, - except 2,398 $\frac{44}{100}$ dollars, which was ^{advanced} allowed at the commencement of this fiscal Year. (Before the troubles commenced)

Not only the ordinary expenses necessary in carrying on the operations of this Agency, - but the additional expenses

dependent on the ~~terrible~~ 'between the Whites and Indians
have been faithfully and patriotically borne, by a few men
in this section of Country, having confidence in the ability
and disposition of the Government to deal justly with its
Creditors. - until their means were exhausted and they no
longer able to extend the hand of Charity in time of need.

Situated as I am, having exhausted every Dollar of
my own means to protect the interest of the Service, in
anticipation of daily relief. - Surrounded with Hosts of
starving Indians. - disappointed and injured Creditors; it
is not a very great stretch of imagination to anticipate
the peculiar position in which I am placed.

No Remittance; and again "No Remittance",
has been the predominant feature in all communication
from the Office of Supt. Ind. Affs. during the last six
Months. - What is the matter (Doctor? Is not the
greater portion of the appropriation for this fiscal Year
ending 30th June 1859 (202,000) Dollars yet on hand, and
is it not available to the Indian Department for the
payment of all just and legal expenses incurred during
the Year in question? If so - when will it be available.

If not - what has become of it? As Col Henley to settle
up the accounts of his Agents before his successor takes
charge of the Office, or who is to do it? and when will the
Accounts be settled or considered? also please inform me
what is the amount of the appropriation for the Indian
Service in this State for the coming fiscal year, - and
Confer a lasting favour on Your friend and
Most Obedt Servt

M. B. Lewis

1891