

**S. Doc. 4.**

**229**

**SAN FRANCISCO, December 1, 1851.**

**SIR:** I have been in expectation for some time past of receiving a communication from the department in relation to the position of Adam Johnston, sub-agent, not having received other instructions than those requiring of me to *assume* my duties as agent, and one of a subsequent date *approving* of the districting of the State.

I informed Colonel Johnston of my having received said communications, and subsequently referred him to the laws and regulations, in which is stated, "but no sub-agent shall be appointed who shall reside within the limits of an agency when an agent is appointed."

Having some cause for objections in relation to his official conduct. I have notified him that I would assume the duties pertaining to my office, in my district.

In so doing, I presume that I am acting in conformity with the laws and regulations, and that which will be required of me by the department. He informed me, some time since, that he was going to send on his resignation.

The Indians throughout my entire district are quiet and peaceable. I learn, however, that some of the tribes in Colonel Barbour's district have been complaining in consequence of their not having received their portion of beef, as per treaty stipulations, and that there is serious apprehension of a rupture with them. The traders who were appointed by Colonel Barbour for that section of country, deem it unsafe to remain or go among them without these supplies are furnished. Inasmuch as Colonel Barbour requested of me to take charge of his district in his absence, and in view of the necessity, I have ordered some beef and flour to be delivered to them, and will visit them and endeavor to prevent the apprehended difficulty.

The above-mentioned section of country is embraced between the Tahone pass and the San Joaquin river, in which there are no whites living, with the exception of those on the San Joaquin river. The Indians are numerous, and have the reputation of being great thieves.

The coast steamer has just come in from the south, bringing accounts rather contradictory in their nature, it is true, but yet sufficiently reliable to cause great excitement and apprehension, it would appear, among the populace of the lower part of the State.

It is stated that the Indians have assembled in large numbers, with the intention of attacking and driving the whites out of the country.

I do not credit all of the statement: at the same time, I am convinced that there has been some dissatisfaction among the Indians of that part of the country, as there have been many causes for it.

The Mission or Pueblo Indians have been taxed; and they having failed to pay, their property has been taken and sold; and I am informed that when Colonel Barbour was in that section, he failed to meet the mountain tribes who assembled for that purpose. They, in consequence, were very turbulent, and were only partly pacified on receiving some beef from Colonel Isaac Williams.

Thus it is probable that the Mission and mountain Indians may have effected a combination, having a common cause for hatred to the whites. I will go down, at all events, by the first conveyance, ascertain the facts, and do all in my power to settle difficulties.

**280**

### **S. Doc. 4.**

There has been no treaty as yet made with those Indians, and they are aware that those north of them have had provisions made for them. This, doubtless, has likewise been an exciting cause; I will endeavor to remedy this if I can get among them. And here a difficulty presents itself at the outset. I shall be necessitated to raise money for my travelling expenses. The amount sent out, (\$25,000) as stated in a former communication, is deposited to Colonel McKee's credit. His banker informs me that he has drawn it nearly all out; and this has been done without consultation or any knowledge of mine, though the instructions are explicit: "After consultation with your colleagues, you will divide, as the work in your respective districts requires, with the exception of twenty-five hundred dollars," (\$2,500) which I have drawn by his order. The balance of the appropriation has been disposed of by him, as before stated, without my knowledge or consent; and this likewise was the case with the money first placed in his hands. I may have something more to say in relation to this subject, at some future day.

The traders licensed by me for the full time allowed by law, are Mr. Samuel Norris and Mr. E. S. Lovell for the reservations on the Yuba and Bear rivers, and the one on Feather river. Their bondsmen are Mr. C. Storms and Samuel Branders.

Major P. B. Reading has the reservation bounded by the Pitt river and the Sacramento. His bondsmen are J. Brenham and Samuel J. Hensley.

Mr. Havel Belcher has the reservation on the Cosumne river. In the first instance I gave him a temporary license: I have now extended it to the full term. His bondsmen are J. A. Read and W. G. Proctor.

The bonds are all filled for the maximum amount required by law, (\$5,000.)

They will be unable to do more at present than to lend their aid in the observance of treaty stipulations, by taking charge of the little supplies which have been presented to the Indians; for the reason that all other traders have greater advantages than they have from the fact that they all sell liquor to the Indians, while the licensed trader is prohibited.

*December 3.*—The mail steamer has come in, by which I am in receipt of your letter of September 15, acknowledging the receipt of treaty, quarterly settlement, &c., from me, of July 18.

Further confirmation has come in from San Diego of Indian disturbances. I shall go down on the 7th instant.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. M. WOZENCRAFT,

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

HON. LUKE KEA,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*