

## THE SOSCOL CASE.

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The following is a copy of a letter from the Receiver of the U. S. Land-Office at San Francisco, California, to ISAAC HOBBS, in answer to the inquiry: "What has been the decision of the Register and Receiver in my pre-emption claim to the public lands on the 'Soscol' Ranch, California?"

U. S. LAND-OFFICE,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 7, 1865.*

MR. ISAAC HOBBS :

*Sir*—You requested, some time ago, that I would let you know the opinion of the Register and myself concerning your case.

When we *reviewed* your case, before sending it to Washington, we *both* came to the same conclusion, which was, that under our *instructions*, and the act of March 3, 1863, we were *obliged* to decide against your rights, and award it to the applicants under the act. *We did not have the question to decide*, whether you had acquired rights between the rejection of the grant and the passage of the law, or *whether you had or not complied with all the requirements of the general pre-emption law*, but whether the applicants, under the special act, came within the requirements of that act. *Your settlement, improvements, and cultivation were sufficient, under the general pre-emption law*, and were far more satisfactory than the acts of most of the settlers. But those were not the things that our *instructions* required us to pass upon.

If the Department should say that you did acquire rights as a pre-emptor between the rejection of the grant and the passage of the law, then *your settlement, &c., will certainly be all that is required.*

Yours, &c.

J. W. SHANKLIN.

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