

No. 19.

SAN FRANCISCO, *May 19, 1865.*

SIR: In compliance with your introduction of April 10, 1865, and received by me April 13, I immediately proceeded to make the necessary arrangements for carrying out said instructions as speedily as possible.

I purchased seed corn, and beans of the best quality, and twelve (12) whiffletrees for the ploughs. I contracted to have the goods hauled to Temecula, the point selected from which to make distributions. My arrangements were completed, and a team started with all the goods on the 22d. By special invitation of Mr. Lovett, accompanied him in his ambulance as far as Temecula, where we arrived on the 27th, the goods arriving there at the same time.

I concluded to make a distribution of a portion of the goods at once to the Indians living at that place belonging to the San Luis tribe of Indians.

On the morning of the 28th I caused the Indians in that vicinity to be collected, and distributed a portion of the goods to about fifty (50) in number, in order that they might immediately commence planting their grounds.

Temecula is one of the principal Indian villages in the southern portion of the State, and during the administration of the chief, Pablo-Apis, (who died about ten years ago,) was in a flourishing condition, cultivating an extensive tract of land, and raising a surplus of wheat, corn, and beans, which they disposed of to emigrants, thereby in many cases rendering great service to the suffering.

Upon the death of Pablo-Apis, and his patron, Colonel Williams, of Chind Ranch, the Indians were thrown under the influence of a set of unprincipled white men, whose only object was to degrade and rob them. Whiskey was plentifully introduced, and degraded white men lived and associated with the Indian women. The consequences were soon apparent. The Indians became idle, neglected their farms, their fences fell down, and they only worked when whiskey could be obtained by so doing. And in the place of being industrious and useful, they became (at least a large portion of them) worthless vagabonds; and many of them are scattered through the towns and on ranches, and work during the week to obtain the means to get drunk on Sunday. I went over their planting grounds, but found no fences, their houses (many live in adobe houses) going to ruin, and everything in a bad condition.

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I endeavored to impress upon them the necessity of their going to work at once to prepare their grounds and plant their seeds which I distributed among them. I also specially urged on their captain, José Antonio, his duty to look after his people and to set good examples before them, but I was informed that he not only gambled, but occasionally sold whiskey to the Indians. I told him plainly he must adopt a different course, or he would be removed and another captain appointed in his place.

I found an unusually large proportion of old men and women, from the fact that the younger ones go to the ranches, to Los Angeles, and San Bernardino to obtain labor. Of those who are left at home, some are very old, I should think not less than one hundred years; but they appear to have very little idea of time.

I am satisfied, if it were not for trifling and vicious white men who go among and demoralize them, these Indians could and would raise an ample supply for their own support, and a surplus to purchase all the clothing they would require. And I will here say that, in my opinion, a general distribution of clothing among them would be money thrown away. A few bales of common blankets for the old and such as really need them would be well, but from my observation I am satisfied they require but very little assistance, and that in farming tools and seeds, and a few bales of blankets. But what they most require is a faithful and conscientious agent, who has the will and the power to protect them from the encroachments of the whites. They have some grapevines and a few peach and pear trees, but these have been much neglected. I saw a few milch cows, and they have oxen and horses sufficient for their farming purposes.

The Indians are living on lands belonging to individuals, and the chief, Pablo-Apis, had a grant for about half a league, which I believe was confirmed since his death. Some of his heirs have mortgaged their interest in said grant, and the titles to the same are very much mixed up, and persons who do much injury to the Indians remain there with impunity. I recommend that the department take such steps as would prevent injustice to the heirs.

Having sent notice to all the Indians in the vicinity that a distribution of seeds, &c., would be made to them on the 4th day of May at Temecula, by request of Mr. Lovett I proceeded with him to Warner's ranch, where his instructions required him to go. Leaving Mr. Lovett at Warner's ranch, I procured a horse and went over to the Indian village, or rancharia, called Agua Caliente, about four miles distant from the main road, and near the foot of the mountains I found the remains of quite an extensive village, containing several large adobe houses, mostly in ruins, a vineyard of perhaps a thousand grapevines, quite a number of pear and peach trees, and other evidences that a large number of Indians had formerly occupied the place.

At present, as near as I could ascertain, there were not more than twenty families remaining, and those suffering from the same causes and influences as the Temecula Indians. I understand these Indians to be on public lands, and I recommend that a small reservation be made at that point, of about three miles square, and including the water, so that parties will have no excuse for molesting them.

Being limited in time, I was unable to visit the Santa Isabel Indians, though I wished very much to do so. These Indians belong to the San Diego tribe, and are also mission Indians. Their principal support is derived from cultivating small patches of land where they can obtain water for irrigation. They suffer much from interference from the whites and Mexicans, or vagabond Sonorians, and I have no doubt but what a small reservation might be selected on public lands and their condition very much benefited thereby.

I returned to Temecula on Monday, May 1, and procuring a horse, rode

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over the mountains to the old mission of San Antonio de Pala, a distance of about ten miles, and visited the Indian chief, or general, known as Manuelito Gota. This man was formerly chief or general of the San Luis tribe of Indians at Temecula, and proved himself to be an efficient and energetic administrator of the laws. He has always been truly faithful to the government of the United States, and took an active part with his people in giving information and assistance to General Kearney, on his first entrance into California, and has now in his possession a pair of pistols presented to him by the general as a token of friendship and appreciation of his services. By his unwavering integrity to the true interests of the Indians, and severity in punishing drunkenness and stealing, and his opposition to such as sold liquors to the Indians, (being strictly temperate himself,) he became unpopular with such as wished to follow those practices, and finally, after the refusal of one of the agents to sanction some of his decisions, he resigned, and has since only acted as a private individual. He is now living about two miles from the Pala mission, on a piece of land which he holds by a possessory claim, and has this year about thirty (30) acres of land under cultivation, and is the owner of horses, cattle, and sheep. The chief, Francisco, acting as general of the San Luis tribes at Temecula, being incompetent to manage the Indians, has been removed by Mr. Lovett, and Manuelito re-appointed in his place. I would strongly recommend that he be allowed a small salary for his services, as they are quite arduous, and will, if properly attended to, take a large portion of his time.

The mission lands of Pala being public lands, and not on a public road, would be a very desirable location for a reservation for the San Luis Indians, so that when any of the small rancherias are abandoned they would have a home to go to.

On my return from Pala I accompanied Mr. Lovett to San Luis Rey, and returned the next day, (May 3d,) and found the Indians coming in for the distribution. Finding it necessary to supply them with food, I made arrangements with Mr. John Magee to furnish as many beef-cattle as would be necessary to feed them while making the distribution. On the morning of the 4th the Indians began to come in quite numerously, about one hundred of the Cohuillas, with their general, Manuel Largo, coming in a body; and from eight to ten captains of the San Luis Indians, with their delegation from their rancherias, also came in the same day. The general of the San Dieginos, Old Tomas, sent word that he could not be in till next day, at which time he arrived with a delegation of more than one hundred from that tribe.

I concluded that it would be better that Mr. Lovett should first arrange the matters for which he was specially commissioned, and accordingly did not finish the distribution until the morning of the 8th, when, having completed the distribution of all the seeds and implements, the Indians were sent away apparently well satisfied.

I will say, in conclusion, that had I had the time at my disposal I should have visited all the rancherias in that region, and earnestly recommend the appointment of a suitable person as a travelling Indian agent for that portion of the State, whose duty would be to visit all the rancherias, remove all troublesome persons, and prevent as far as possible the evil consequences which result from contact of ill-disposed persons with the Indians. Accompanying please find certificate and vouchers for distributions and disbursements.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

J. Q. A. STANLEY, *Special Agent.*

Hon. AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, State of California.