

No. 18.

SIR: Having received a communication from you, informing me of your removal from office, and requesting my immediate return to San Francisco, I beg leave to submit the following necessarily crude and imperfect report of the condition and wants of the mission Indians in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego:

Being compelled to return before I had concluded my labors, I fear my report will not be found as full, complete, and satisfactory as it otherwise might have been.

In accordance with instructions received from you, I took passage on the steamer Senator for San Pedro, arrived at San Pedro, and proceeded thence by stage to the city of Los Angeles, where I was detained some days on account of the difficulty of procuring transportation for myself, escort, and the necessary provisions for the journey. This delay proved to be no loss of time, however, for I found, upon inquiry, that most of the matters contained in your special instructions were well understood in the city of Los Angeles, and during the time I remained there took measures to make myself fully acquainted with Indian affairs in the counties of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

J. Q. A. Stanley, the distributing agent in that quarter, rendered me much valuable assistance by useful information and suggestions.

To Colonel James F. Curtis, commander at Drum barracks, San Pedro, I am also indebted for much information and many acts of kindness, tending to advance the views and desires of the Indian department, more particularly those contained in my letter of special instructions.

General Mason, commanding the military district of Arizona, and myself, arrived at San Pedro on the same day, and the fitting out of his wagon trains

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there, for the march to Arizona, was the principal cause of the scarcity of the means of transportation, and of the consequent delays.

Colonel Curtis having furnished me with a suitable military escort, on the 20th of April I left Los Angeles in company with J. Q. A. Stanley for the Indian country. At the town of El Monte I met my escort; encamped there that night. The next day travelled as far as the Santa Ana river, and encamped for the night; the following day reached Laguna Grande. On the third day we reached the Indian rancherias of Temescal and Temecula. Camped at Temecula, and called in the captains and chiefs to inform them that in one week from that day we would hold a big meeting of all the tribes and families. The chiefs, at my request, sent runners with written orders for all the tribes to assemble on the 4th day of May, 1865, at Temecula.

Following your instructions, I then started for Carrisoto, where the man Burnham was murdered, reaching the place after two days' travel. Nothing remained at the place of the murder but the ashes of the burnt building. About four miles from the spot is Kimble's Station, where I camped and learned all the particulars of Burnham's murder, which in substance are as follows:

Burnham was a man of ungovernable temper, and had killed one or two men himself. At the time of his death he was engaged selling liquor to Indians, and the general opinion is that on the night of the murder the Indians were drunk, and they murdered him for money and liquor. Four Indians had already been arrested, and were confined in the jail at San Diego, and one had been executed for the murder of Burnham when I arrived at that place. As there could not be found any clue to implicate other Indians in the murder, I made no further inquiries. The citizens at Kimble's informed me that there was no suspicion against others, and that seemed to end my duty in this particular.

Returning from Kimble's, I arrived at Temecula, and in accordance with another of your special instructions I started for the rancho of Cave S. Cotts, near San Luis Rey. Following closely the letter and spirit of your instructions, I examined particularly the Jolla Indians in reference to the charge made against Mr. Cotts. They informed me that Mr. Cotts had never interfered with their rights, but that he had bought a rancho of ten leagues from the heirs of Pablo Apes, chief of the San Luisena Indians, which includes the rancheria of La Jolla.

Mr. Cotts delivered to me the original deed from his grantors, which is herewith annexed, and which must be returned to him upon his request, as that is the condition upon which it was delivered to me. By a reference to the deed it will be seen that the question between Mr. Cotts and the Indians is a question of title, and one for the courts to settle.

There was also a complaint against Mr. Cotts by the parents of an Indian boy in his employ. Upon examination the boy was found to be well cared for, and consequently it was deemed proper that he should remain.

Another complaint against Mr. Cotts was that he had whipped an Indian to death, and another severely. There was no proof of the first charge. Mr. Cotts has, however, done wrong in flogging Indians. The custom and the rule is for the chiefs to administer the punishment. Mr. Cotts was informed that he must follow the rule, and must not beat the Indians with unnecessary severity.

The government has sadly neglected to exercise that supervisory care over the mission Indians which would have prevented such things from occurring. Indeed they have been almost forgotten within the last few years—True, the civil war during this last-mentioned period, which has so completely engrossed the attention of the government, demanding every energy that it might enforce complete supremacy at home, is a sufficient excuse for

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this apparent neglect. But in the future it is to be hoped that this industrious and worthy class of Indians will receive the fostering care and protection they so much need to constitute them, in case of foreign war or internal dissensions, an element of strength upon our southern border.

Returning from San Luis Rey, on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of May I held a large meeting at Temecula. All of the San Luiseno Indians were present, as were also the Coluillas from San Bernardino, together with most of the Santa Ysabel and the San Diego Indians, numbering in all about fourteen hundred. They brought with them a full account of the number of men, women, and children, also lists of all their animals, the number of their fruit-trees and grape-vines, the original accounts ingeniously cut in long strips of wood, which I have brought with me to be preserved in your office. A written explanation of their meaning will accompany this report.

Mr. Stanley, the distributing agent, spent most of the time in faithfully distributing the seeds and agricultural implements forwarded by you for the Indians. This work was performed in a diligent and patient manner. The heads of families, some hundreds in number, each received a small portion of the seeds and some agricultural implements. The immediate detail of the distribution you will be informed of by Mr. Stanley himself.

Each tribe or family was allowed to come forward at the meeting and state their complaints and grievances. They were mostly of a petty character, and easily disposed of; some, however, were of a more serious character, and demand the earnest attention of the department.

The Coluillas, of San Timoteo, during the existence of the small-pox two or three years ago, fled in dismay, leaving their lands, not with the intention of abandoning them, but from fear of the epidemic. The white settlers near the Indian lands immediately took forcible possession of them, and have positively refused to give them up. It is of the utmost importance that immediate steps be taken to examine fully into this matter, to the end that strict and impartial justice be done in the premises; and if it is found, upon investigation, that the possession of the lands of San Timoteo, in San Bernardino county, belongs to the Coluilla Indians, it is to be hoped the department will, without delay, put the rightful owners again in the occupancy of their lands, though this should require the military arm of the government. The Coluillas are only a partially civilized tribe, and they are now roaming through the San Jacinto mountains, without a home or resting-place. It is a matter of wonder they commit so few depredations. They number about nine hundred.

Some nine miles from Temecula is a place called Pajamo. When the Indians left this place for their summer grounds, a number of villanous Americans, headed by two men named Breeze and Woolfe, burned the Indian houses or "jacablo," and then took forcible possession of their lands and ditches. This is the complaint made by the Indians, and it is substantiated by the whites. Justice demands a full and impartial investigation of this matter.

The white residents in those Indian districts have all, more or less, for the last two years, been in the habit of either selling or giving liquor to Indians, and the State has paid dearly for this, being compelled to spend two hundred thousand dollars per annum, to prosecute, punish, and maintain Indians for the commission of crimes, nearly the whole of which has its origin in the use of liquor. The better class of whites have, however, agreed with me that, in the future, they will not sell or give liquor to Indians. They say they are willing to co-operate with the department in doing away with this delusive element as far as possible. If the department will give this proper attention, very much of the trouble with the Indians can be avoided. It is not to be expected that drunkenness among the Indians will altogether cease,

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but, with the assistance of the well-disposed whites, it can be materially decreased.

In nearly all the rancherias of the Indians are found strolling vagabond whites, who, disloyal to their country, have been teaching the most pernicious doctrines to the mission Indians, cohabiting with their women, fond of intoxicating drinks, and rebels at heart. It is a matter of wonder that the Indians, under their instructions, have committed so few depredations. I issued written orders to the chiefs not to give asylum to or permit this class of whites to demoralize their people any longer by allowing them to remain on their rancherias. I informed them particularly that the government would be displeased with them if they afforded a refuge to secessionists fleeing from justice. The chiefs in every instance informed me that hereafter no white men should be allowed to utter disloyal sentiments in their presence, nor would it be permitted in any of the rancherias, and that henceforth no person disloyal to the government of the United States should have a resting-place with them; furthermore, that those now staying among them should be requested to leave and not return. This work had been commenced when I left, and has, I trust, been well prosecuted by the chiefs.

The wants of the Indians are not great, viewed as an immediate necessity. A proper distribution of some of the soldiers' condemned clothing late in the fall would, I think, be correct. What the Indians need most is proper encouragement, together with a strict supervisory care on the part of the government.

Under the old system of mission priests these Indians were not only self-protecting, but were also a source of revenue. These pious fathers, however, while they exhibited towards them a kindly care for their temporal, as well as spiritual welfare, were nevertheless strict in exacting obedience, and firm in exercising care and authority over them, their property, and their labor, the Indians simply furnishing the manual labor, while the priests furnished exclusively whatever brain-work was necessary. It must be admitted that under the mission system the Indians were far better cared for, and were much happier, more industrious, and less vicious than at present. It is not to be expected that we can ever fully return to the old system; partially, however, we can.

I earnestly hope the department will lay before his excellency Governor F. F. Lowe a full statement of the condition and wants of the mission Indians of California, to the end that in the governor's next annual message to the legislature he can suggest such measures for their relief as he, in his judgment, may deem wise and proper.

In my opinion, and in justice to the people of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, who are at times forced to support large numbers of indigent Indians, it is necessary that a small appropriation should be made by Congress for the exclusive care and protection of the mission Indians of the southern counties of California. Such an appropriation could be most judiciously applied in the purchase and proper distribution of seeds, agricultural implements, and clothing. A small portion of the amount appropriated could be very properly expended in preserving from ruin those first landmarks of Christianity and civilization on the Pacific coast, the mission churches. Nothing would tend more to subdue the evil passions of the Indians than a restoration of those magnificent edifices now crumbling to decay. Many may disagree with me, but I have no hesitation in saying, after observing for twenty-eight years the habits and character of the christianized mission Indians in California and New Mexico, that nothing contributes more to do away with crime among them than the influence of good and holy priests.

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The supervisory care of the Indians should be continuous, and sub-agents or special agents should be selected who will faithfully give their whole and undivided attention to supervising the Indians. It will not do simply to make periodical visits, full of promises which generally end in neglect, but promises and pledges should always be fulfilled in letter and spirit.

At the request and election of the Santa Ysabel Indians Chief Tomas was removed, and Ambrosia appointed in his stead. Chief Francisco Maylin resigned from the charge of the San Luisena Indians, and Manuelito Cota was appointed.

On the third day of the meeting General Mason, *en route* for Arizona, arrived at Temecula, which circumstance had a most happy effect on the Indians. They were informed by me as to the great struggle through which the nation had just passed, and the necessity that forced the government almost temporarily to forget them. They were promised that in the future they should be cared for and protected in their rights and privileges, and that strict and unqualified obedience to the government and the laws would be exacted of them.

It is to be sincerely hoped that those pledges will be faithfully kept, and that not a single promise will be broken.

I earnestly hope you will call your successor's attention to this incomplete report, and endeavor to impress upon his mind the necessity for his department to finish the work commenced by me and brought to a sudden termination by your removal from office.

W. E. LOVETT, *Special Indian Agent.*

AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Rancherias present at the Temecula meeting.

Protrero.—Contains 80 men, 97 women and children, 143 beeves, 145 horses and mares, 16 jacks, 200 sheep, 200 fruit-trees, 1,907 grapevines of many years' growth.

San Ignacio.—15 men, 9 women, 6 cows and horses, 50 fruit-trees.

Ancorja Grande.—34 men, 50 women and children, 9 beeves, 16 horses and mares, 700 grapevines all bearing well, 400 fruit-trees.

Temecula.—196 men, 192 women and children, 225 head of cattle, 150 head of horses, 163 sheep, no vines or fruit-trees. There is a question of title here as to their lands between the heirs of John Rains and the Temecula Indians. This should be fully examined.

San Luis Rey.—75 men, women, and children, 62 beeves, 45 sheep.

Cahuillas.—703 men, women, and children, 60 horses, mares, and cows, 200 sheep. Manuel Lurgo is the child of this tribe. They are the Indians spoken of in my report as having been driven off their lands in San Timoteo, San Bernardino county. They are much scattered at present.

Coyotes.—80 men, 60 women and children, no horses or cattle.

La Jolla.—82 men, 98 women and children, 135 cows, 50 mares, 180 peach, fig, and pear trees. These are the Indians who live on the lands claimed by Cave D. Cots, of which mention has been made.

Laboba.—These Indians have a complaint against one Ramon Rivas, who has squatted on their lands. They number about 60 men and 70 women. This needs very much a full investigation.

Pala.—73 men, 89 women and children, 56 beeves, 57 horses and mares, 70 sheep, 56 fruit-trees.

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Pauma.—106 men, women, and children, 48 beeves, 14 horses, 46 sheep.
Cholo.—42 men, 67 women and children, 50 fruit-trees, 300 vines, 38 oxen and cows, 18 mares.
San Ysidro.—62 men, 97 women and children, no animals or other property.
Agua Caliente.—73 men, 75 women and children, 70 peach trees, 2,240 grapevines, 25 horses, 42 head of cattle.
San Ysidro.—40 men, 50 women and children, 9 horses, 2 oxen, 15 sheep.
La Puerta de la Cruz.—84 men, women, and children, 6 cows, 2 yoke of oxen, 5 horses, 6 mares, 50 grapevines. Soldiers of the 7th regiment killed three of their beeves.
Puerta Chiquita.—80 men, women, and children, 14 animals of all kinds, 22 peach trees, 30 vines.

There were ten rancherias of the San Diego Indians unable to be present, because of the great distance to be travelled in going to Temecula. These should be called together at some convenient time and their condition ascertained. From their chief, Tomas, I learned they were in about the same state and as numerous as the average of the rancherias present at the gathering.

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 Louis 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.