

and posterity. The greatest obstacle that is now in the way of the Indian department's civilizing and moralizing the Indians in this section of country, is the rude and wanton manner in which their young women, who reside in unprotected rancheros and in the vicinity of mining towns, are sought by men who resort to the frequent use of ardent spirits to allure them into their evil ways.

This evil can only be obviated by their permanent residence on the farms, which would add but little expense to the department, if the women's time, under a proper instructress, was appropriated to the manufacturing of men's clothing.

Now that the season and the plan of catching and curing fish is all understood, it is believed that considerable Indian food may be obtained from that source this fall; in anticipation of which, I have engaged barrels and coarse salt, and am now making preparations for the coming fish season.

I am of the opinion that it is politic and best to retain this place this coming season as a home and place of resort for all the Indians north of San Joaquin and its vicinity.

The necessary ditches for irrigation now having been cut, and the training of the water and the practicability of its application being well understood, it is only necessary to commence in time and incur a small expense, and the certain irrigation of all the land desired is practicable; and there is no good reason why fears for the success of a crop on this place should be entertained, if I am instructed to proceed in time. By the first day of September next, preparations for the coming crop should have commenced.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your most obedient,
M. B. LEWIS, *Sub-Agent*.

THOS. J. HENLY, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, San Francisco, California.

No. 166.

AGENCY, SEBASTIAN MILITARY RESERVE,
Tejon Valley, California, August 15, 1857.

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the department, I have the honor herewith to submit my annual report for the current year.

The Indians under my charge have, during the past year, enjoyed the blessings of health, peace, plenty, and, so far as their dissolute habits would permit, contentment.

The early part of the past winter promised fair for an abundance of rain, and consequently favorable for an abundant crop. I therefore, at the proper season, used my utmost energies in putting in a plentiful crop of wheat and barley. I succeeded in seeding about six hundred acres of wheat and one hundred and fifteen acres of barley in good condition. This, in addition to the large quantity of volunteer grain, promised an abundant harvest and an abundant supply for

some time to come. But after the 30th of January but little rain fell, and the result was an almost entire failure of the crops, except what I succeeded in saving by irrigation; but in consequence of the limited supply of water, this was but a small proportion of the crop.

Indeed, so great has been the drought for the past three years that the ground is dry in many places to the depth of eight or ten feet. Added to the calamitous effects of the drought, the little wheat we did succeed in saving was so seriously injured by smut as to render it unfit for seed and quite inferior for flour.

The Indians have seeded about one hundred and fifteen or one hundred and twenty acres in corn, beans, squashes, melons, &c., which, by constant irrigation, are producing a fair return; added to this, they have succeeded in raising several hundred bushels of wheat and barley in small patches at their rancherias.

There are now growing in the garden connected with the agency about fifteen hundred grape vines, part of which produced a small crop the past season; forty-five fig trees, some of which bear; and a quantity of pomegranates which bear luxuriantly.

In addition to ordinary garden produce, we will have a few hundred bushels of potatoes and a small quantity of corn.

Since my last report, in compliance with instructions, I removed to this place about two hundred Indians from Tule river; these, with small accessions from various other points, have increased the number brought to the reserve during the year to about three hundred and ten.

This number will therefore make the total number resident on the reserve somewhat over one thousand. In addition to these, there are living near the reservation some two or three hundred Indians who draw more or less of their subsistence therefrom.

Owing to the failure of the crop, a portion of the Indians will be sent to collect wild food for their subsistence during the winter; and all will be required to depend more or less on the spontaneous productions of the soil for subsistence.

Our proximity to the fort, with the usual concomitants of grog shops, kept by men who have neither "the fear of God nor respect for the laws before their eyes," have increased drunkenness on the reserve, notwithstanding my utmost endeavors to prevent it. The Indians are assisted in smuggling whiskey on the reserve by a disreputable class of Mexicans and Americans, and so expert are they as to elude vigilance. This great curse is the source of almost all the insubordination and difficulty I have to contend with among the Indians. Added to this, the roads from the Tejon and Cañon de los Uvas passes lay through the reserve, thus placing us on the two thoroughfares which constitute the means of communication between all the country south and east of this and the Tulare and Sacramento valleys, thereby bringing the Indians in frequent contact with a set of men whose character, calling and disposition, render them the least desirable of all others to give impressions to beings of the character of California Indians. And I would here state, that, from the experience of the two past years, and a careful study of the Indian character, as exhibited by those under my charge, in order to be eminently successful in the objects for which reservations are created, they should be entirely isolated from

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contact with the white population, and most especially their former masters—the native Californians—at least so far as possible. Their great readiness to copy after their frailties, and aversion to imitate their virtues, renders their intercourse with them productive of very pernicious results. I would therefore very respectfully recommend, that if the title to these lands be extinguished, as the result of legal decision or otherwise, a location be selected as completely isolated from thoroughfares and settlements as possible.

The Indians are now so far advanced as to be capable of conducting almost all kinds of labor successfully; yet, from their extreme cupidity, it is necessary at all times to keep them under the eye of an overseer when engaged at work for the benefit of the reservation; this circumstance renders it necessary to retain more employés than would otherwise be necessary.

Although the unsettled title to the land on which the reserve is located renders it inexpedient to make expensive improvements, yet from imperative necessity I have erected one storehouse, an office, a milk house, a calaboose, or prison, and a wagon shed; all of adobes, made by Indian labor, making the actual expense but nominal.

There are at present in the counties of San Bernardino and San Diego a large number of Indians, known as "Mission Indians," who are conversant with all the operations of agriculture, and to some extent with the mechanical arts, as taught them by the native Californians, who solicit and represent that, if supplied with a few of the ordinary agricultural implements and a few oxen or mules, they would be fully able to subsist themselves, by means of agriculture, in a comfortable manner, without further calls upon government for aid. They exhibit a good degree of intelligence, and appear capable of success, if thus aided, for which they earnestly solicit.

All of which is most respectfully submitted,

J. R. VINEYARD,
Indian Agent.

Colonel THOMAS J. HENLY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, San Francisco, California.