
No. 100.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,

August 29, 1854.

SIR: Not deeming it my duty, in my official reports of the condition of things at the Tejon reservation, to allude to what might have been considered the delinquencies of my predecessor, to disparage the efforts he has made, the labor he has performed, or to interfere in any way with the reputation his friends seem so anxious to give him, I have as far as possible avoided any allusion to Mr. Beale which could be unpleasant to his feelings; but having observed in the National Intelligencer of the 13th of July last an article from which the enclosed was taken, I send herewith an extract of a letter just received from one of my assistants at Tejon. I instructed the writer to obtain and furnish me with correct information on all subjects connected with the past and present condition of the reservation. The statements made by my correspondent may be relied upon as strictly true.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. HENLEY,

Superintendent.

GEO. W. MANYPENNY, Esq.,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

[Extract from the National Intelligencer.]

“Such was the confidence of the Indians in Mr. Beale, that delegations from tribes from every section of the State, and in some instances whole tribes, commenced at once removing to the Tejon, abandoning their homes forever, and carrying with them all their earthly property. Some, too far removed from the Tejon to make the journey by land, he sent down to San Pedro in a steamer, under the charge of an agent. In a short time several thousand Indians were collected on the reserve, and punctually on the day appointed, Superintendent Beale arrived.

“After holding the necessary councils with the chiefs, a plan of operations was agreed upon. Nearly three thousand acres were put under the plough, and by last accounts the crops promised a most abundant return. I cannot, within these limits, enter into any details, but will only add that entire success has attended his efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Indians under his charge. He is daily re-

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ceiving applications from tribes begging for admission into his colony. Nor is the reputation of the Tejon reserve confined to the western slope of the Sierra Nevada; it has spread eastward as far as the Rio de la Virgen and the Vegas de Santa Clara in Utah Territory, and bands of miserable Root-Diggers are now soliciting for admission."

[Extract from a letter enclosed by Superintendent Henley.]

" SEBASTIAN MILITARY RESERVE, TEJON VALLEY,
September 22, 1854.

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" In the spring of 1850, an American named French settled in this valley, and built one of the adobe houses now in use on the reservation. His business was taking care of stock on shares; but in 1851, on account of Indian disturbances at the Four Creeks, and other outbreaks, he left the place. In May, 1852, Alonzo Ridley and David McKenzie came here for the purpose of trading with the Indians. After trading a short time, they left for about two months, and returning, took up their permanent residence. At the time of their first visit, and when they commenced their settlement, there were about three hundred Indians living here. They were called the Tejon Indians, and belonged to this valley. Their customs were, feasting and travelling a great deal, though they had then corn and wheat fields the same as at the present, except as regards quantity. They were very peaceable, and never committed any depredations on the whites. They were very improvident, and their liberality was unbounded. The mountain Indians, those in the immediate vicinity of the valley, from intermarriage with the Tejon Indians, have become one family. Many of them are what are called Mission Indians, having lived on the Spanish missions in time gone by. Some of them speak the Spanish language very well, and their conversation with the whites is held in this language. From what was taught them at the missions, they were enabled to plant and raise grain before the Americans came among them. When the old Spanish missions were secularized, these Indians were thrown back upon their former resources, though with the advantage of some knowledge of agriculture. On the opening of this reservation, this knowledge was practically displayed.

" During the first year of the residence of Messrs. Ridley and McKenzie, the Indians were continually talking about the Americans, and expecting the agents and presents from our government so lavishly promised by Colonel Barbour in 1851. They had heard, also, that their treaties had not been ratified by our government, and grew discontented. Numerous tales were in circulation among them to the effect that the Americans intended killing them all, and for that reason they were anxious to commence killing first. The position of the Americans, at times, was by no means pleasant.

" Mr. Beale, the former superintendent of Indian affairs, first visited the valley in August or September, 1853, one year since, for the purpose of selecting a reservation for the Indians. At that time, the number of Indians actually residing here was about three hundred and

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fifty. When he had determined on making this a reservation, he held a council with the Indians for that purpose, and his intentions were well received. Active operations were commenced about November. During the month, about twenty Indians from the Frezo were brought in; they remained about one month, when they stole and ran away with eight horses on the reserve. From the Sacramento, or the north, seven were brought in under charge of a Mr. Storm. They also left in a short time, with the exception of a little boy named Lelo, now with Mr. Beale. From the Four Creeks there never have been over five or six at one time, and they did not remain. In the first six months on the reserve, the number of the Indians was increased to about six hundred, embracing all the Tejon tribes, and the tribes with which they were connected, who really belonged here, (with the exception of Juan's tribe of Lake Indians, numbering twenty-four men and their families,) and a few from the San Joaquin, Joaquin's tribe of twenty men from Kern river; which last were *sent off* by Mr. Beale's overseer, on hearing of Mr. Beale's removal. So that the Indians who have been actual residents, and now remain here, with the exception of Juan's and Joaquin's tribes, are none others but those actually belonging to this valley. According to all the information I can give on the subject, eight hundred Indians, great and small, old and young, is the highest number I have heard estimated, or can be proven to have been here *at any one time* since the commencement of the reserve."