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Indian affairs ; and that I shall, with great pleasure, lead my aid to carry out such course as you may indicate.

With great respect, your friend and servant,

J. A. McDOUGALL.

E. F. BEALE, Esq.,
Superintendent, &c.

No. 99.

TEJON PASS, CALIFORNIA,
September 4, 1853.

DEAR SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date in relation to an Indian reservation in that section of California south of Sacramento valley, and to the establishment of a military post upon that reservation, and asking our opinions upon several points connected therewith:

1st. "Which do you consider the most suitable locality south of the Sacramento to this point for an Indian reservation?"

Judging from the fact that the whole country south of Sacramento, and as far as latitude 37° north, where the San Joaquin breaks out of the Sierra Nevada, is thickly populated by American citizens, there can be no point within this limit that would be available. The only other points where a reservation could be located, which would fulfil the conditions of your instructions as stated in your communication, on King's river, and the Four Creeks, and this point.

Most of the land on King's river is occupied by American citizens; and the same may be said in regard to the Four Creek country. This fact is an objection to either of those two points, but there being no occupants at this point, a like objection does not obtain; and besides, the Tejon possesses many other advantages over either of the other two.

It appears to be a point to which the Indians in the San Joaquin and Tulare valleys might, with the most facility, and at the least expenditure of time and money, be induced to join with those living on the east side of the Sierra Nevada; and if the reservation extended as far north as Kern river, (latitude 35° 30') would be sufficiently ample to accommodate all the Indians you might find it necessary to bring together in that portion of California you designate.

It is a point the most remote from white settlements that can be selected, and is so situated that settlements cannot be made to the eastward, owing to the fact of the location being on the confines of an almost impassable desert in that direction. There appears to be fewer inducements for miners to locate near here than in almost any other portion of California.

The amount of arable land is neither too great nor too small, and would be located in different parts, or at different points in the reservation, thus allowing each family, ranchero, or tribe, a spot by themselves.

These and other reasons induced us to think that portion of country in and about the Tejon pass by far the most preferable location of any we have seen, or of which we have had any reliable information.

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2d. "Do you know any other place within those limits where one could be made, embracing the requisites of good land, wood, and water?"

We know of none other than King's river and the Four Creeks.

3d. "To what point south of the Sacramento do you think the Indians would be most willing to remove, or could be removed by government at the least expense?"

If the Indians are to be removed from their homes at all, we have no doubt but that they would, as a body, be more willing to concentrate at this point than at any other, and to take them all from both sides of the Sierra Nevada, (which we presume will be the case,) that they can be collected, fed, and protected at much less expense here than at any other point with which we are acquainted.

4th. "Where do you consider the most important point for the establishment of a military post for the protection of the interests of both whites and Indians?"

We answer, decidedly, the Tejon pass.

5th. "Do you consider it practicable to remove them to the eastward of the Sierra-Nevada; or, if removed there, could they subsist themselves by cultivation?"

If there existed an *absolute necessity* for removing them east of the Sierra Nevada, it might, under these circumstances, be considered as practicable; but, as far as our personal observation goes, we should say that they could subsist upon the agricultural productions of the soil, but with extreme difficulty. The country is quite elevated, and during many months of the year the cold is quite intense—to withstand the effects of which the habits of the valley Indians but very illy fit them; and besides, if a military post is to be established upon the reservation, it would require a very great outlay of money and labor to establish and supply a post on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada.

In conclusion, we beg to congratulate you upon your safe arrival in California, and to express the pleasure it gives us to meet you after your arduous journey across the continent.

We are, very respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE STONEMAN,

Lieut. 1st Dragoons.

R. S. WILLIAMSON,

Lieut. U. S. Top. Engineers

JNO. G. PARKE,

Lieut. Corps Top. Engineers.

E. F. BEALE, Esq.,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs.