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In conclusion, it gives me pleasure to state, that I have entire confidence in the ultimate success of the plan I have proposed for the support of the Indians in California; and that if this plan is pursued, that they will ultimately form industrious and useful communities.

The small experiment I have already made proves that they are worthy of the paternal care of the government.

It is impossible at present to enter into a detailed estimate of what this plan will cost to carry it into complete effect; but judging by the high rates of everything in this State, and the number of Indians to be provided for—variously estimated at from 75,000 to 100,000—the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, (\$500,000,) in addition to what has already been appropriated, will be required.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. F. BEALE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 93.

INDIAN RESERVATION,
San Joaquin River, September 20, 1853.

SIR: The ploughs and other farming implements which you had purchased for the Indian department arrived at this place about the first of February last. In accordance with your directions I immediately came here, and brought with me the men, women, and children belonging to the different tribes of Fregno Indians.

I proceeded at once to start twelve ploughs and put in wheat. All the work, with the exception of the sowing, was done by Indian boys from twelve to twenty years of age. Everything went on well; in fact, better than could have been expected from Indian lads, none of whom had any previous experience in ploughing. In three weeks' working time, about three hundred and fifty acres were ploughed and sowed with wheat; and, while the boys were engaged in ploughing, the men dug a ditch four feet wide, four feet deep, and about two miles in length—to enclose the field, and to protect the grain from the encroachments of wild horses, cattle, and other animals—not being able to obtain a sufficient quantity of timber without hauling it a considerable distance.

After sowing the wheat I commenced planting potatoes, of which we put in seven thousand pounds. We finished this job about the first of March; we then proceeded to prepare another field of about two hundred and fifty acres for corn, pumpkins, water and musk-melons, &c. The manner in which it was ploughed and planted was very creditable to the Indians who did the work. We enclosed it with a ditch of the same dimensions as the one enclosing the wheat-field. This we completed about the last of March.

I then commenced making a *corral*, for keeping and branding the cattle until their removal below the farm. It is one hundred yards in

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diameter, and surrounded by a ditch seven feet wide and six feet deep, and was dug by the Indians in one day. This piece of work has been pronounced by all who have seen it to be the most extensive in the ditch line that has ever been done in California in the short space of one day. It served to brand several hundred head of cattle without any serious damage being done to it. Another *coral* for securing beef cattle at night, on the grazing ground eight miles below, on the river, was made by setting posts in the ground close together, and then filling in between them with poles, and it took about one hundred wagon loads to complete it. By this time the wheat, corn, potatoes, and other vegetables were up, and promised to yield an excellent crop.

The Indians appeared delighted with the work they had done; and the prospect of reaping a rich harvest to reward them for their labor, besides having a surplus for the coming winter, instead of living upon acorns, as they had hitherto done, was a source of much gratification. At this period I gave permission to all, with the exception of the plough boys, to leave for the Fregno river, where they could dig for gold, and purchase clothing with the proceeds of their labor.

I retained the plough boys on the farm, to cultivate the corn and other vegetables, and to do any other work which might be required on the place.

In addition to other work which was done at this time, we made two *corals* for threshing grain. They had to be made very large and strong, to hold a large number of cattle, and prevent their breaking out. These *corals* were made by setting posts in the ground two feet apart, and then poles were lashed on them, one above another, six inches apart, till it reached a sufficient height to hold a large amount of unthreshed straw, and to keep the cattle from jumping over it.

About this time the weather became very warm, and we found that our tents afforded us but little shelter; and I therefore found it advisable to build a brush house, which I did by setting poles in the ground, forked at the end, and then extending poles across the top from one fork to the other. We then covered it overhead and on the sides with fine willow brush, and thus made an excellent summer house. It was about forty feet square.

After this time, for about a month, we employed our time in making hay. I found excellent grass and clover about six miles from the farm, and we cut, cured, and hauled in about one hundred tons of superior hay.

Up to this time I had hoped to make a splendid crop of wheat; but I now discovered it had been attacked by a green bug, which proved very destructive. For several acres there were three or four in each head of wheat, and appeared to suck the sap out of the stalk, which soon turned yellow and withered. In the course of a few days they had committed so much destruction that only a few acres were worth cutting, and the whole amount harvested was not more than two hundred and fifty bushels. However, I think there is a sufficient quantity of wheat on the field that came to maturity to yield a second crop without resowing. It will only require ploughing this fall to give a good crop next season.

In addition to all this, there was farming done, on quite an extensive

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scale, by the Indians living at the Tejon. There were about two hundred families engaged in it, and the result of their labor proved very different from that at this place; all the crops having produced abundantly, and yielded sufficient to many large feasts, besides creating a great desire among them to go into more extensive operations during the coming season.

They, like the Indians here, found the use of our farming utensils a little awkward at first; but they soon got accustomed to and worked with them quite well.

The nature of the land at the Tejon is much preferable for farming purposes to that on this river, and the great ease with which it can be irrigated (a most desirable object to be attained) makes it one of the best locations for an Indian reserve I have seen in all my travels through the southern country.

I have visited all the various tribes, both in the valleys and in the mountains south of Stockton, and find them all more willing to live there than any other place that could be selected.

With much respect, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. B. EDWARDS.

Supt. BEALE, *San Francisco.*
