

California Sept 30
C. S. Beale
Supt Military Reserve
February 8. 54

Reports upon his farming
ing operations on the
Reserve, and condition
of the Indians, with
enc. to Gen S. D. Ben-
ton

Rec^d April 6. 54

6th Gen.

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Tefon Military Reserve
February 8th 1854

Sir,

Being about to return to San Francisco on official business, I have the honor to report progress at this place - Since my last, I have completed our wheat field, and the whole two thousand acres (2000) is now covered with the coming crop, and presents a beautiful prospect of the plenty, which will reward our labor, when we shall have gathered its grain. I am now planting barley, of which I shall sow five hundred acres - after which a hundred and fifty acres of corn, will complete the heavy part of my work for this season.

This you will remember is exclusive of the separate portion, which I plant for each tube, and which I informed you is to be placed, at their entire disposal, while the large crops I have mentioned will be served out in regular, and sufficient rations.

It is impossible to do justice to the docility, and energy which these ^{poor} people possess. They work not only without murmur, or complaining, but with the most cheerful alacrity, and as the fruits of their labor begin to show itself in the immense fields now covered with its verdant promise of future plenty, they look at it in amazement, and with delight.

You must perceive in the fact that I have punished a few lazy ones, with proper but not severe correction, a proof of the discipline which

is here maintained by a moral force which is exerted over their minds by the majority, and that this influence could, and would never have been exerted, but for the confidence they felt in what I have told them, that all this work is to benefit themselves, and not the Government.

This then is the first great point gained - viz an established confidence in their own minds, that the Govt. really desires their good, and not to exterminate them, as malicious, and reckless white men have informed them.

If this had not been done, you will perceive it would have been impossible I should control with the dozen white employees I have here some 2500 Indians. - So perfect is the discipline, that not even one of them ever leaves his work for a single day without permission, or returns without reporting his arrival.

You must not suppose I have merely brought the ploughs here, and the grain, and all the stores which my returns show, and given them to the Indians telling them to go to work - On the contrary, I have toiled from an hour before daylight until dark with the few hired white men I have employed, and showed them how to manage the instruments put into their hands. It has been a labor of excessive toil, only compensated by the aptitude, of the scholars, and cheered by the most preeminent success.

I have endeavored to transplant here a system, and regularity, acquired by eighteen years experience in the strict school of naval discipline, and I have not been unsuccessful as the result shows. My Indians are divided into different working parties - Those who plough and harrow, seventy

five in number, go to the field after harrowing, in regular order - those who ditch have their work laid out, each one so much according to the nature of the soil, and so on through every department of work which happens at the time to be necessary - Their dinner meals are cooked, and eaten, in the field, breakfast, and supper at the village. Their tasks are never made laborious so that an hour before sundown their work is always finished.

I have clothed them coarsely but comfortably, and on Sunday, (work having ceased on Saturday at noon) they seem as happy as it is possible to conceive - To that day I have encouraged them to look as one of pleasure, and for this purpose, have instituted among them our own games in which I have requested, and encouraged my white employees to take part, so that now on every Sunday, we have, sometimes two, or three hundred playing at bandy, and ball with those who during the week are their overseers and instructors in manual labor.

In fact so happy are my people, that that which I never thought possible, has come to pass, and my feelings for this poor race which at first were merely those of compassion, are rapidly changing into a deep interest in their welfare, and in many instances to a personal attachment.

I have no military force ^{here}, and require none, - my door has neither been locked, nor barred night, or day and yet my feeling of security is as great as though I was surrounded by an armed guard.

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Among other labors executed here I have by a ditch, six feet in width, by eight, in depth, and running for a distance of nine miles, connected two streams, and thrown them completely around the immense fields, in which I have sowed my grain, putting the certainty of my crops beyond peradventure, by giving me the power to irrigate the entire field, with comparatively little labor.

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On the first of next may, I shall further elaborate my system, by choosing six, among the chiefs most intelligent, and forming them with myself, to preside, into a council to decide upon certain laws for our interior government, & also on what shall be done with our surplus produce, which must be very great. This council will meet on the first of every month, to discuss matters of interest to our reserve, to look constantly to our future welfare, and prospects, as well as to fix appropriate punishments, and settle whatever may need arrangement amongst us. - Thus by degrees I hope to raise these people to believe that God has not created them to live, and die, as the wolves, and beasts, of their mountains. - Already some faint, and indistinct, notion that such may be the case, appears to have struck their sight, but as yet it is vague, and distant like the first uncertain glimmer of a distant light house. - Constantly they say to me

"We have been asleep a long time," "We are just beginning to awake, but our eyes are not yet wide open."

The extending influence of this policy is already felt - but a few days since the chief who controls, almost the entire race of valley Indians, and hitherto considered as beyond reclaiming, visited me with some ~~of~~ of his tribe. He came to stay a day, he remained a few nights. When he left me he said - "I came here to laugh, at your work, and to take back some of my people who were with you. I go away with peace in my heart", and if not another Indian of the valley comes, I will make my home with you. In two months I shall return with my people. Should this promise be kept he will bring with him not less than five thousand Indians, and these six will have been removed without force, and without expense, and above all without entailing on our part the bitter disgrace of punishing Indians because they do not willingly abandon the homes of their childhood, and the graves of their sires.

This ingenuity is carried into every branch of manufacture. I have seen one of them; a lame boy carefully unravel a piece of worsted saddle girth, and in three months after produce the garter I enclose you. They were intended as a present to myself.

and to be used to tie the leather leggings
 necessary here to protect the limbs in rid-
 -ing through a thorny undergrowth in
 hunting game. Much as I value
 them, I cheerfully resign the gift to you,
 as a proof of what they are capable.
 I have watched this boy day after day
 with patient toil improving his imperfect
~~performance~~ ~~until~~ ~~he~~ ~~has~~
 produced that which I send you. It
 may be considered by the Dep^t. a small
 matter, but with me it has an enlarged
 significance, and I repeat that such in-
 -genuity, (for this is but one instance in
 many I could mention), and such
 constancy in labor, deserve, and should
 receive the fostering care of a Govern-
 -ment, which possesses in its treasury,
 so many unappropriated millions.

Very Respectfully
 Yr. Obedt. Servt.

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 Hon^{ble} G. N. Manypenny E. H. Beale
 Com^d Ins^{tr} Off. Sup^r Ins^{tr} Off.
 Washington
 D.C.

Dear Sir,

Knowing the interest you feel in our Indian affairs of this State I send you my letter to the Department giving some account of our progress on the Reserve, & beg you will forward it to the Commissioner after reading it.

Very Respectfully,
Your friend,
E. F. Beale.

Hon S. A. Benton.
Washington,
D.C.