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Thos. J. Beanley
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Reports evidence from Indians tribes in California.

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Gill
Office apt. Indian Affairs  
San Fr. Cal. Aug. 28th, 1864

Hon. Geo. M. Denny
Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
Washington City  


Sir:

Since entering upon my official duties on the 20th ult., in accordance with my instructions of June 23, 1864, I have visited the Indian Reservation at Teyon (the only reservation at which any Indians have been collected) and have taken possession and supervision of the public property. Schedules of what will accompany my report at the expiration of 12 months are herewith appended.

I could not ascerten the precise number of Indians belonging to the Teyon Reservation, as many of them were in the mountains when an excursion which a peon usually toke this season of the year, to collect soap-roots and genitu which they find threaten great abundance and of which they are very fond. For the number, however, according to the best information I can obtain, at seven hundred (700) who acknowledge the authority of seventeen chiefs. These Indians, many of them, speak the Spanish language, having learned it during their intercourse with the Mexicans, and at the Catholic missions where some of them have been formerly employed—and where they acquired some knowledge of agriculture previous to the settlement of California by the people of the United States.
The plan of substituting the Indians by their own labor in the cultivation of the soil, which I presume was suggested by the success which has attended the efforts of the Catholic Priests in applying Indian labor to the erection of the Mission buildings, and to the cultivation of their Vineyards and grounds. The erection of these establishments has been a work of immense labor. I will give a single instance the Mission of San Fernando, which I can but very imperfectly describe. It consists of one building 300 feet long by 35 feet wide, two stories high, and 60 feet square. Two houses for Indian residences each one hundred yards in length. The Vineyard's & Gardens contain probably 100 acres enclosed by substantial Adobe walls 10 ft. high. Very extensive fields in the vicinity have been cultivated, irrigated by water conveyed several miles in ditches. There are some 10 or 15 of these Mission establishments in this State, all of which have been mainly erected and sustained by the labor of Indians.
intended for the residences of the Superintendent. There are also a sufficient number of Convol for taking care of the Stock.

The Indians are not aget, provided with any houses, and are living mostly in their habitations as they are accustomed to in their wild state. The improvements which I consider necessary and which I consider make this fall and winter and during the early part of the ensuing year are Adobe houses for a granary, smoke-shops, stables &c. 100 feet in length, by 24 feet in breadth, two stories high. (Which it is intended hereafter to enclose by the erection of wings) A mill to run by water for the manufacture of flour, and early in the summer, it is intended, to erect Adobe houses for Indian residents, which can be done at no expense whatsoever except their own labor.

The Indians on my arrival at the reservation were quite anxious to learn of any change that had taken place in the intention of the Government towards them. And on ascertaining in Council it appeared that they had decided objection to the Indian Interpreter, and also the two men whom charge they had been placed by my predecessor. This objection being removed I met with no other difficulty, and after several conversations I left them well satisfied and contented, with an unequivocal promise to obey all the orders of those in whom charge I left them. The Chiefs at their own request have been permitted to exercise their authority over their respective tribes, and are held responsible for the proper quota of labor from each tribe. The labor is divided among the
chiefs according to the number in every tribe. The making of October to one, logging in the building to a second, the third, fourth to a third, building grain from the field to two fourths. In this way the work progresses in perfect order, and all have pleased at their participation in it.

The reservation location of the reservation is, in my judgment, a good one, the best that could have been made. The soil is good and well adapted to the cultivation of these products as our farmland for Indian subsistence. There is an abundance of oak timber at a convenient distance and plenty of red wood and pine in the mountains at accessible points within fifteen miles. The Lake within the limits of the reservation affords an abundant supply of fish of a good quality. Game is plentiful and a hunter at ordinary wages can subsist on it at a cheaply as well as good food from the present settlements of our Citizens and will not, I think, for a long time to come be a barrier even to the progressive and laudable spirit of our people in the settlement of new and remote portions of our Territory.

If the Indians are to be allowed any residing place within the limits of the State, no attention in my opinion, ought to be given to any claim that might be raised against this location as tending to embarrass the settlement and prosperity of the State.

On returning to San Francisco I took the

acquaint road via Kern River, Tulare River, Kings River, Four creeks and Fort Miller and the northern tributaries of the San Joaquin River.
a distance of four hundred miles for the purpose of living and conversing with the Indians in that region of the State. The following is a brief statement of their number, condition and disposition with regard to removal, with such remark as I have considered proper.

Kewa River Indians number about 600. They reside within 40 miles of the reservation, and can be removed there at any time.

Pata Creek number 50. They reside about 150 miles distant from Kewa River; can also be removed when they may be deemed desirable. Their tribal feeling being at peace with the whites and having the means of attaining support in their present home, their removal is not at this time, a matter of necessity.

Tulare River number 300. Habitats of few fertile acres and grazing lands. They are not suffering; but this country is settling, and they ought to be removed. It can be done in the early part of next year.

Yuma Creek. The G. H. Mitchell and Legislative number 500. Their present location interferes with the progressive settlement of the country, and they should be removed, with sufficient dispatch to give place to the enterprising pioneers. Tulare and Yuma Creek embrace a large extent of agriculturally valuable country of surprising fertility, very desirable for settlement and cannot endure much longer the home of these people.

Kewa River, The Moapa, Antelopeas, Tolles and Chocomus, number 150. They subsist upon fish, grapes, nuts, and acorns, and some of
They obtain grain for their labor and by gleanings the fields of the settlers. They are unwilling to remove, and are
repulsed from doing so by the white people residing upon
this River. So long as they remain between peaceable,
and do not become demoralized by the people of the whites,
their removal may be postponed.

The Juquin Indians, five different
tribes, Ossewab, Pitsches, Tallorkis, Lomam, Amoay, number 400. All of which, except the
last mentioned tribe, are in a most miserable and
degraded condition. They reside in the mining
region and from an exposure of some four years to its
influences, they are reduced to a condition of utter
starvation and to confirmed habits of idleness and
destitution, readily yielding to vices the most de-
grading and revolting resulting in disease which
is gradually reducing their numbers. Their condition
is too much demoralized, and disease too prevalent among them to make their removal to Tepin
at this time either expedient or proper. They are
quite equal to the subject of a special communi-
cation.

The Fresno River Indians are composed of five
tribes, the Ossewab, Coasttery, Chorecha, Nok-
chuc and Toweler, and number 500. They are
peaceable, quiet and industrious, are making a
good living and wear clothes. Some of their Chiefs
and younger men will go to the Reservation this
fall. They arecontented where they are, but can
easily be prevailed upon to remove.

The above named tribes numbering
about 3,000 souls reside at an average distance
of two hundred miles from the Tejon Reservation. Their removal will not be expensive, and can be accomplished as speedily as the advance of the settlements; the interests of the Government, or humanity to the Indians, will require.

The rear which will be planted this winter will, in all probability, be abundant for the support of those referred to, and all the other Tribes within reach of the Reservation, and in the course of next year a large number may easily be added to those now enjoying the benefit of the Reservation.

To conciliate the Indians in California according to the plan now in prospect, is a task which will require time, energetic and judicious industry and prudent and judicious management; without these more than partial success must not be anticipated.

In speaking of the Indians between the Tejon Reservation and the San Joaquin I am restricted to the policy of peaceful removal without any attempt at coercion; but there are others with whom it may be necessary to adopt a very different policy. I refer to the Tribes residing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and in the Valley, upon their eastern base, entering the entire range from the Colorado to Oregon. They number several thousand more, to the whites, and most of them are horse thieves. Time and circumstances can alone determine the policy which should control our action towards them. From the San Joaquin south, west to the Klamath, there are some hundreds of small tribes, numbering several thousand souls, interwoven with the white people and
as a general thing, are in a most miserable, degraded and destitute condition. Disease, starvation and death in their most appalling forms are to be witnessed in every quarter. These are the objects which should receive the first attention of the Government.

Having placed the Pajaro Reservation in a condition not to require any personal supervision, it is my intention to devote my entire time for the remainder of this year to those of the most destitute of our California Indians. The disposition to be made of them, and the policy adopted towards them will be the subject of a communication by the next mail.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

[Date]