California Jan 1849

Thomas J. Stenley
San Francisco Oct 15 54

Reports the condition
of Indians in (Nevada) reservation. -
buildings in course of
erection. Number of new
and wagons purchased.

Sent 70 or 80 Indians
numbers about 200 living
near the fort hills by the Sierra
Nevada. Their destination
is -

Appointed C.E. Mowrey
Special Agent for Trinity Co. -

Northern reservation
loses to become one.
From the Council with the Indians at Storms Ranch of which mention is made in my communication of yesterday, I proceeded to the new (Storms Ranch) Reservation, and was astonished to find on my arrival there about two hundred and fifty Indians who had assembled there according to an agreement which I had made with them on my visit to that vicinity about three weeks ago. They had built their huts and were busily engaged in gathering seeds and acorns for the winter. They are highly pleased with the protection thus afforded them and with the prospect of bettering their condition. They are quite willing to gather their own food for the present, if they are only protected from the hands of marauding Apaches, who have for months infested this portion of the country stealing Indian children to be sold as servants wherever a market can be found for them. Many have been sold under a representation by their kidnappers that they were orphans, and had been taken at the request of their tribes when it has often happened that the parents had been murdered before the children could be captured. I have taken decided steps to put a stop to this outrageous and infamous practice.
The buildings now in course of erection at this Post and a two story Frame for a House, thirty feet in length by twenty feet in width; one building thirty feet in length by eighteen feet in width, for a residence for the employees; a small building for a blacksmith shop; and a coral for the cattle. It is intended to use open for most of the work on this reservation as a matter of economy, the grazing being sufficient for cattle the greater part of the year without any expense for feed. Twenty-four pairs of oxen and four wagons have been purchased, which are now engaged in hauling cut seed for the coming crop. The average price of grain for the supply this winter will not exceed three cents per lb.

I have sent for a tribe of Indians numbering about two hundred, residing about seventy miles east of the Reservation near the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada, who on account of the failure of acorns and the destruction of their provisions by the Indians are in a destitute condition as to require immediate assistance to save them from actual starvation during the approaching winter. The Indians in Trinity County eighty miles North of the Reservation are in a similar condition, and I am called upon in a most pressing manner by the people there to give them some aid before the snows of winter close them in from all hope of relief. It is my intention to invite these Indians to the Reservation this fall. It is bad policy to feed them where they are, and the expense in that mountainous region would be too great to be justifiable
By the amount of the appropriation, but
the price of grain being so low in the Sacramento
Valley I have determined to invite all who
are in this destitute condition, to come to the Re-
ervation at once, and the best arrangements
will be made for their subsistence that the
circumstances of the case will allow, though
it was not my original intention to have col-
lected more together this fall than was neces-
sary for the purpose of planting the crop.

Since writing the above I have appoint-
ed Mr. D. B. Strode as Special Agent for Tri-
ity County. The accompanying correspon-
dence will explain the cause of my action
in this matter and will I hope justify the
expenditure which it will create in advance
of the receipt of funds.

This Northern Reservation promises
to be very successful for all the purposes
intended by the Government, and I have
the highest hopes of its being greatly beneficent
to the Indians, of whom many Tribes could
not without some such arrangement have
been much longer preserved from almost
certain extermination.

Very Respectfully,
Your Ob. Serv
Thos. D. Howard,

Chief Ind. Affairs