

California Hogs
Wm J. Hewley
San Francisco Jan 31 '59
Out

Enc. copy letter from
Agent W. E. Giger at
Winnemuccia in re-
gard to the recent order
of the Dept. to reduce the
force on the Reservations

Rec'd Feb 28, '59

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San Francisco.

Office Supt. Ind. affs
January 31 1859

J. W. Denver Esq
Commissioner Ind. affs

Sir

I have the honor to enclose the accompanying communication of W. E. Geiger Ind agent at Orms Lakes in regard to the recent ^{order} of the Department, to reduce the forces on the Reservations, I agree with him in the views he has taken of the subject.

I think it unfortunate that he has been required to discharge the herdman, Ota, Ranchero in California would for a moment think of keeping the amount of stock now in Mr. Geiger's charge, without a trusty and experienced herdman in constant attendance with it. There is an other important matter which Mr. Geiger has not mentioned, The season will shortly arrive for letting the jacks to the Spanish

Spanish mares, it will ^{require} two men constantly to attend to them, for the months of March, April, and May, otherwise the use of the Dicks and the increase of the herd will be entirely lost.

If this order is to be adhered to, I would recommend the immediate sale of Cattle and breeding stock now on hand, else there will be serious losses which can not be avoided, Spanish Cattle can not be taken care of by the Indians, and of the American cows they will steal all the calves.

Very Respectfully Yours
Thos. J. Hensley,
Supt. Ind affs

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Nome Luckee Reserve

January 26th 1839.

Sir

Immediately on my arrival, I enforced the order of the Department respecting the reduction of the forces on this Reserve. At the same ^{time}, however, in framing these dispositions that I was not in possession of funds to discharge their claims for services rendered the Government; and therefore extended to them the privilege of remaining here, and subsisting, until such time as the means were placed in my hands to pay them off.

The result of this order must necessarily retard the operations of the Reserve, and lead to injurious consequences. The only person allowed, except myself to superintend the agricultural affairs of the place, is the Farmer. When you consider that there is land in cultivation at the extreme points of the place, from eight to ten miles apart, where parties of Indians are at work, you will at once perceive the impossibility of giving the required attention to their operations. It requires, in order to secure the labor of Indians, to have constantly with them a white overseer. Unless there is one, they will slight the work and shirk their duty. Besides, it is unsafe to trust them with the management, of horses, mules or oxen, either in hauling, plowing or harrowing; they are not competent to repair a break either in harness or machinery, and hence, in case of the slightest accident

there is a probability of the loss of every thing entrusted to their care, unless this order the overlooking of all the various workings ^{parties} must devolve on one person (the Farmer) for being deprived of the services of the clerk, who is also commissary, the Agent ^{will} be required to remain at the office the most of the time, for there is scarcely an hour during the day that he is not called upon to supply some want or answer some demand, Hence it will be in this power only occasionally to visit the working parties. In addition to this the Agent is necessarily compelled, to prevent boils, quarrels and outbreaks among the different tribes of Indians, to visit frequently the ranchmen &c

In depriving the Reserve of a Clerk and commissary, it will devolve duties upon the Agent, which will render ^{it almost} impossible for him to give proper attention to the supervision of all the labor connected with the different farms, or tracts of land, being worked in the Reserve. The Clerk & Commissary, is looked upon by me as essential to this place. He has care of all ranchers reports &c and in addition has charge of all the rations, both of employees & Indians, it requires the almost constant attention of one man, to deal out to the Indians alone their rations and to prevent importations by them in drawing oftener than entitled to, while in distributing blankets, shirts

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pants &c it is necessary to observe the closest attention, and should be done by one who has the means of distinguishing the Indians as they are supplied -

In dispensing with the clerk, the keepers may have been influenced by the idea that the labor is light, but when we consider the fact that it requires his constant attention and continued presence in the office (acting also as commissary) it will be seen that his office is by no means a sinecure.

There is a subject of much importance to which your particular attention is called; There are now on this place some three hundred head of Spanish cattle, and two hundred head of local inferior Mares & horses; The order prohibits the employment of a herdsman or vaquero. This large amount of stock must necessarily then be left to the care & charge of the Indians, It is impossible to entrust them safely with such property; they are wholly incompetent by themselves, to protect or guard it, Besides should any stray off, or be driven or run off, by evil disposed persons, or a horse, or steer be stolen or taken away from them, the guilty parties, even if afterwards discovered would escape punishment, because the Indians are not allowed to testify against white persons. This property is of great value & should be fully protected. It requires the constant attention of

an experienced vaquero, who with some Indian aid, can fully care for it, especially as the cows are now calving and the mares foaling. It is urged by me, as a matter of safety to myself, if in consequence of the dismissal of the vaquero, this stock should be lost, there may be an attempt to saddle me with the responsibility; and hence this protest against such action, a due care for my bondsmen, requires that particular attention be called to this. In case no suggestion be made by which proper protection can be given in this matter, it is hoped that some suitable disposition be made of the property in question. With none other than Indian vaqueros & herdsmen, you are assured it is not safe -

The order does not allow a cook. The necessity of such an employe should be apparent to every one. If each employe is to have issued separately, his rations and cook them himself, it is very evident that the time lost in such work will cost the Government more than the wages of a cook. Besides this, it seems hardly to be the intention of the Department - to compel the Agent to cook his own meals, to drive him to the kitchen, or force him at his own expense to hire a cook. It may be said that Indians should be made to perform such labor. It is respectfully suggested that those who have a proper regard for the cleanliness of their Cuisine, or the healthful preparation of their food would not like to engage an Indian in such work, Indians can be made servicable about a

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Kitchen, or attending a table, but to rely upon them solely, in the preparation of food for white people, is absolutely preposterous, if not disgusting. In addition to this, they cannot be trusted in any way with the control of Rations - they waste, destroy and give away -

Another matter of moment is, that under the orders, the Mill which is now running & grinding the wheat into Indian Flour, must stop. It was my intention to make Flour sufficient to feed the Indians through the coming summer and fall, during the dry season the water entirely fails, and it is impossible to run the mill. It was hoped that a sufficient quantity of Flour could be made to last until the next rainy season, when the Mill would go to work on the new crop. Wheat or Rye ground into Flour goes much further & is much better liked by the Indians than when fed to them in the grain. There is no one on the place, but the person engaged as Miller competent to do this work. -

As "absolutely and indispensably necessary" to the welfare of this place, a Physician should be employed, although there is not a direct prohibition in the order, the Department may have so intended. If so, it will take but a few words to show how necessary a Physician is to the Reserve, your attention is called to the following facts: -

For the quarter ending 31st day of December, 1887, there have been treated of

Indians alone for	
Fever Intermittent	250
Inflammation of lungs	50
Venerical Disease	50
" " Cured	40
" " fatal	6
Inflammation of lungs fatal	14

In addition to this, of eighteen white persons on the place who were treated, ten were fever intermittent and eight were influenza, all of whom recovered, This exhibit shows a vast deal of sickness among the Indians, and to deprive them of Medical treatment is at once to consign them to the grave, It certainly cannot be the intention of the Government to have the Indians in the Reservations exterminated, by withholding from them the necessary Medical aid demanded to preserve their lives; As policy so inhuman would be condemned by all enlightened and humane communities, The Government has provided a home for the Indians - forced them to live together in large bodies and should as certainly provide the means of saving them from the ravages of disease as to give grain for the purpose of avoiding starvation -

The Indians are required to labor and in performing their work & by exposure or otherwise, disease is contracted, How must they be turned out to die, like a broken down horse, or left upon the field like a helpless & crippled ox, No one will answer affirmatively, then in the

other hand, if Medical attendance is to be given, look at the immense cost it will be to treat them, No Physician within Twenty Miles of the place, the expense of getting one here for a single case, will be more than one half of a months salary now paid, It will be cruel & unjust in the extreme to the Indians, ^{to} be placed beyond the hope of Medical aid - such, however, must be the result of the operations under this order. -

With Twelve hundred acres of land in grain, scattered over a distance of Ten miles, with Five hundred head of stock belonging on the Reserve, and fifteen hundred head more on its immediate boundaries, the Agent is allowed only a single man (the Farmer) with Indian help, to protect the growing crops, herd & care for the Government stock, & prevent depredations by the stock of others; and more, all this is to be done in addition to overlooking the other necessary work to be performed on the Reserve -

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. C. Leiper

Ind. Agent

To

Hon. Mr. J. Henley

Supt. Ind. Affs

San Francisco.