

California #1464
W. S. J. Henley
San Francisco May 23, '59

Enc. letter from Sub. Sgt.
W. B. Lewis rel. to the
Crops, indebtedness &c,
of the Fresno Reservation

Rec'd June 30, '59

Offic. Supt. Ind. affs
San Francisco
May 23rd 1859

Chas. S. Min. Esqr
Commissioner Ind. affs

Sir

Enclosed
find copy of letter rec^d from sub agent
M. R. Lewis at the Fresno Reservation
in relation to affs at that place.

Very Respectfully Yours
Thos. J. Henley
Supt Ind. affs

Copy

Office Fresno Ind agency Cal
May 12th 1859

Sir

Notwithstanding that I am made to understand from the practical workings of the Indian Department, that the Government has abandoned further care for its existence or interest in this state, I am still to be found at my post. And so far as in my power, making rather an unsuccessful effort to protect the general interest of this agency.

The growing crops on the two farms are now promising and will no doubt, unless visited by smut or some other unexpected disaster mature and give a fair yield, but from present pecuniary indications it will not likely be harvested. It can not be done without some funds in due time. And I again feel called on from a sense of duty, in the name of the neglected interest of this agency to give notice to the Department that I can not foresee under existing circumstances how it is possible for me any longer, to have the crops taken care of and the interest of this agency protected. The Indians who

who heretofore so faithfully performed all the important
labors required on this farm have left in search of
food and clothing, leaving this place with a sickly
crooked and inexperienced set of hands to cultivate
& harvest the growing crop.

The purchase of a few tools
for harvesting purposes is also indispensable Mr.
Campbell has just left this farm very much disap-
-pointed and dissatisfied on account of there being
no money to pay rent nor wages, & says "That if the
money due him is not soon paid, the crops now growing
on Kings river Indian farm can not be harvested
for the use of the Indian Department. That he
can no longer afford to use his farm for Indian
purposes gratuitous" He is making arrangements to
gather the crop at his own expense and it is quite
certain that he will make formidable efforts to
retain the entire crop raised on Kings river farm
as security for the money due him until paid.
It does seem to be a great hardship that a people who have
acted in such good faith toward the Gov. as the Indians
of this agency has being dispossessed of the Lands that
gave them birth by the citizens of the United States
contrary to the laws of the country & the pledged faith
of

of the government, should thus loose such a promising prospect, for a plentiful supply of subsistence for the coming year, for the want of such a pitiful sum as would protect this interest at this time, four weeks more ^{and} it will be too late to save the crop, and then the unfortunate ^{and} fated "Digger" will have to "Root Hog or die"

The rights and interest of this agency during the last ^{three} quarters having been fraught with such pecuniary seriousness, cause me to loose sight of the future, To say, that my disappointing ^{and} injured creditors require of me some action by which an explanation may be had as to the prospect for their future, The present fiscal has now near passed away the vouchers for two quarters have been accepted by creditors in my favor, and I have certified that I have paid the sums without having advanced one dollar, I have been required in many instances to give certificates of indebtedness founded on the vouchers as an evidence that there was money due, many of which certificates is now pledged in San Francisco on a loan made,

Speculation as to the ^{cause of the} default of the Indian Department, has become the common "Chit Chat" of this country, and in the absence of any

Explanation its enemies can hurl forth their false
malicious slanders with impunity, under which
circumstances any explanation as to the policy
likely to be pursued by the Department in
relation to the payment of money due for supplies
furnished would be thankfully received by me, (2)
no doubt afford much relief to the minds of its anxious
creditors,

Very Respectfully Yours
Obt. Servant

M. R. Lewis
Sub agt

W. H. P. [California 1859]