

Los Angeles Star, Volume 5, Number 7, 30 June 1855 — Indian Reservations. [ARTICLE]

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Indian Reservations. Management of the Indian

As the management of the Indian Reservations, by Lieut. Beal and Col. Henly has been the subject of criticism by several newspapers, we wish in speaking of their merits and demerits to do justice to both of these gentlemen. If a partisan spirit and political hate gave rise to the slanders against Lieut. Beal, we have reason to believe that they have been entirely quashed by the honorable action, of the Government, who have allowed his accounts in almost every particular item. Lieut. Beale was charged with being a defaulter to a large amount. His accounts went before the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and after protracted delays were finally adjusted and found to be honorably correct. It is gratifying to Lieut. Beal's numerous friends that he passed through the ordeal unscathed.

Col Henly's management has also fallen under the ban of certain interested persons, whose censure has been heaped upon him without stint. If this has been done through the influence of disappointed applicants for Beef, Grain or other contracts, to injure Col. H. with the Administration, the accusations should receive that confidence only to which they are entitled, considering the source from which they emanated. We are among those who believe that Col Henly will be able to give a correct account of his stewardship before the proper tribunal. We do not wish to "extenuate or set down aught in malice." but if there are any facts that the public should be made acquainted with, regarding the management or mis-management of the Reservations, we hope to be furnished them. We learn from a reliable source, that there is gross mis-management in harvesting the grain at the Tejon, as no person of experience seems to have charge of the Reapers, and the consequence is that there is a shameful waste of the grain. It is also stated that there are not at present sufficient hands to do the harvesting, as the whole number of Indians large and small, will not exceed sixty, that are attached to the Reservation. The wheat on hand is in a good state of preservation and is estimated to be sufficient for an abundant supply for several years, should there not be a large addition to the present number. In connection with this article we subjoin an extract of Col. Henly's report sent to Washington in April last, which we clip from the "California Farmer."

"The report has been transcribed for us by the courtesy of H. C. Brayton, Esq., Secretary in the office of Superintendent, to whom we return many thanks.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS, }
San Francisco, April 14th, 1855. }

Hon. G. W. MANTYPENNY, Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C. :

Sir: Having just returned from the South, I am ap

able to give a very favorable account of affairs at the Tejon. The Indians are quiet and contented, and engage in their work, even more quietly than usual.

The quantity of wheat and barley sown, is about fifteen hundred acres. This is less by five hundred acres, than I intended to have sown—the dry weather, during the winter, prevented the plowing of a greater quantity. Rain, however, has fallen bountifully, during the last month, and the crops look exceedingly well. I made arrangements while there, to provide for each Indian tribe on the Reserve, a garden, cornfield, and melon and pumpkin patch, as their individual property. The houses, which they were directed to build, last fall, are now completed, and many of them are now living in adobe houses, of their own construction.

They have become content with the policy of giving beef, only to those who labor, and are satisfied, now, with their ration of flour, which is the food we give those who do not labor; to those who work we give about three pounds of beef, each per day, which is boiled with the flour, (chopped wheat,) making a very good and substantial food, with which they are very well satisfied.

The women make their own clothing, very neatly; and I now purchase a cheap article of cotton drilling, which is made into clothing for the men; and as there is no expense, except the wholesale cost of the cloth, the cost of clothing is very little. I do not, however, give to the men, who perform no labor, any other clothing than shirts—deeming it important, at every point, to keep up the distinction between those who labor and those who do not.

We manufacture our own flour and grain, or rather, chop the wheat, for the Indians, with a small mill driven by mules; the water mill, which is in the course of erection, not being yet completed. When I left there the plows were engaged in breaking the garden and corn land for the Indians. When this should be completed I directed them to commence breaking new land for the next year's crop, as I consider this, which is similar to the summer fallow in the East, to be the proper method of farming in this country. Land thus prepared can be sown any time during the fall, and is ready to take its start with the first rains in winter. The wheat, of which there is a large quantity, on hand, is stored, in the chaff, in the large adobe building; and I shall be able, this year to test fairly the experiment as to whether wheat can be kept in this climate or not.

Returning from the Tejon, I came the land route, via Kern River, Fort Miller and the Fresno Farm. The Indians upon the entire route are peaceable and quiet, and I left word with them that this year's crop would enable us to furnish them with plenty of wheat at the Tejon, and gave them a general invitation to go there, which I have no doubt they will do as fast as the progressive settlement of the country demands their removal. There are about fifteen hundred Indians on King's River who have heretofore been averse to removal, and the white people, also, were last year disposed to favor their remaining. They, however, are now anxious that early steps should be taken for their removal; and the Indians seeing the inevitable fact that the lands must soon be taken from them, are becoming restless, and ask for protection.

Preparatory, therefore, to bringing them under subjection, I have sent up from the Tejon, a team of mules, a wagon, loaded with flour, plows, &c., and have directed an agent to plant at one of the Rancharos a field of corn—say fifty or an hundred acres. This will be done at small expense, and is, in my opinion, the cheapest method of exhibiting to the Indians the objects and intentions of the government.

At the Fresno Farm I found everything in a prosperous condition. The quantity of wheat and barley sown is about four hundred acres, and looks more flourishing even than at the Tejon. There are about four hundred Indians at this place. They

are in good condition and are very well contented. The distinction which I have kept up, in regard to food and clothing, between those who labor and those who do not, induced the chief of this tribe to solicit labor for all his people, that they might be clothed and fed alike.

There are within a circle of one hundred miles around the Fresno, several thousand Indians, and the object of this farm is to collect them here, preparatory to their removal to a more suitable location. Leaving the Fresno, I returned to this city, via Stockton, arriving on the 30th March, having been absent thirty days.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

THOS. J. HENLEY,

Superintendent Indian Affairs.

☛ Quite a large number of Strangers had ar-

☛ Quite a large number of Strangers had arrived at San Diego, from Sonora and Lower California. Dr. Thomas Spence from Sonora with 100 head of cattle. Mr. Maun, Esq., from Lower California with 150 head and some fine horses. Capt. H. Stoker from New Mexico with 50 large mules, *en route* for Los Angeles. Also Jose A. Moreno from Mazatlan, reports that the whole country affords rich grazing through the entire route.

Lieut. Parkes and party arrived at Fort Yuma on the 8th inst. All well.

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