

San Joaquin Republican, Volume 3, Number 11, 5 February 1853 —
FROM DRY CHEEK. INDIAN DIFFICULTIES. [ARTICLE]

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FROM DRY CREEK.

INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

Sir:—The tribe of Indians at the mouth of Dry creek, have been for some time stealing stock and robbing unprotected ranches; some time last week one of them entered the house of Mr. Drew, on the Moquelumne river, near Benson's ferry, and stole his rifle, pistol, blankets and provisions, and carried the plunder to the rancheria, where the property was found concealed by Mr. Drew and party, who arrested the thief and proceeded to chastise him by whipping, being tied to a tree for that purpose, when his comrades endeavored to rescue him by making an attack and firing on the Americans, who immediately shot the prisoner and retreated. The Indians commenced firing first. This happened on Monday. The whites encamped for the night near the rancheria, and remained quiet until reinforced by Benson and party, of the ferry, when the siege was renewed, and the defensive became the offensive. A plan of attack was agreed upon, by dividing the party, twenty men on each side of the Moquelumne river. Those on the North side soon came up to the Indians and endeavored to reconcile matters and settle the affair, which they obstinately refused, bidding defiance, as they were not aware of the reserve on the other side of the river. The whites immediately opened a fire, killing four or five Indians. In the melee Benson got separated from his party, and was supposed to be killed, but was

concealed in the bushes and dared not move, as either party was likely to fire on him if he made the least disturbance to attract attention; after dark he joined his friends.

On Tuesday, the contest was renewed, the Indians still determined to resist force by force, and will remain in the chapparel until starved out. Three Indians were taken prisoners.

The tribe numbers about seventy warriors, and are well armed and good marksmen; are brave and determined, and will cause considerable trouble, as their horses were taken and confiscated, and their rancheria burned to the ground. Their village is at the mouth of Dry creek, five miles from Johnson's ranch. From Mr. Johnson I received the above. K.

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