

Sierra Citizen, Volume 1, Number 6, 18 March 1854 — Farming on the Indian Reserve. [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

Farming on the Indian Reserve.

The Stockton Republican has a letter from Capt Conner, stationed at Tejon Pass, which contains the following interesting passages.

I was most agreeably surprised to see what improvement there has been made at this place in the short time it has been occupied. There are no less than 2500 acres of excellent land sowed with wheat, and all well ditched, with a stream of water running through the ditch for the distance of six miles, and from which the whole field can be irrigated. There are at present some forty plows running daily, sowing barley, breaking ground for corn, vegetables, &c. There are some 2500 Indians on the Reserve, the young men and boys of whom do the out-door work—some engaged in plowing and sowing others acting as vaqueros, and such occupations as are required about a large farm. There is one very ingenious fellow learning the blacksmith's trade, and another the carpenter's. In fact, it is most astonishing with what facility and readiness they perform the duties assigned them. They have already planted several acres of potatoes, and are to plant more together with several acres of corn, and the various vegetables in their proper season. Connected with the farm is one of the most excellent gardens

in California, in which is planted a large quantity of grape vines, together with the trees of the various tropical fruits adapted to this climate, such as orange, peach, apple, apricot, pears, pomegranate, &c.

The Indians appear to be very happy and contented. The old people do the household work, while the girls and young women are employed in making garments for themselves and the men. My attention was yesterday called by Mr. Bishop, the very obliging superintendent in the absence of Lieut. Beale, to a woman making a shirt, and although the style of the cutting may not be fashionable as some of our Stockton dames could execute, still I will defy any of them to beat the sewing.

IMPROVEMENTS.—For some time we have been watching the progress of street grading carried on by water power, an arrangement which rather heads the Steam Paddy. Sluices have been set in the street running back to the hill, where immense piles of old tailings have been thrown—these are shoveled into the sluice and carried down by the water obtained from a flume above, and discharged into the street. The work is progressing rapidly, and when completed we shall have the prettiest streets to be found in the mountains—free from annoyances of dust and mud, where stout gentlemen, and gentlemen not so stout, can promonade without dislocation of the dorsal vertebrae.