

Shasta Courier, Volume 3, Number 40, 9 December 1854 — The IliiUrih Aguiu^ [ARTICLE]

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The Indians Again.

The condition of three or four thousand Indians on Pitt and McCloud Rivers, and their tributaries, is such as to excite the sympathies of all those who are capable of feeling for suffering humanity. If not now, in a few weeks they will be, in an absolute state of starvation. This is no idle statement, made for the purpose of writing an "interesting paragraph"—but a startling fact—and a fact that should attract the attention of Col. Henly. Our information is from a source that precludes all doubt in regard to the matter.

What shall be done? A gentleman writing from the Colusa Reservation, thinks that Colonel Henly is not authorised to furnish these Indians with food, unless they go to Nome-Lackee. This may be so, but we cannot believe it. The main object of the appropriation of \$300,000 for Indian purposes in California, was doubtless for the establishment of Reservations: but surely Colonel Henly has some discretionary power in the expenditure of this money. And if he should conclude that—by furnishing these Indians with food, and thus saving them from starvation this winter—he would so gain their confidence as to be able next summer to overcome their present great repugnance to abandon their mountain homes for the Valley, it is perfectly competent for him to make such expenditure of the monies in his hands. It is impossible to get these Indians upon the Colusa Reservation this winter. Must they therefore be permitted to starve?

We maintain the proposition that it is within the scope of the powers delegated to Col. Henly, and not inconsistent with the Indian policy now being acted upon, to use a portion of the money at his command for the purpose of removing the Indians to the Reservations. We believe that a judicious expenditure of public funds at the present time, in supplying food to these destitute Indians, will greatly hasten the time when they can be removed.

Our motive in urging this matter so frequently upon the attention of those having in charge the Indian affairs, is two-fold-sympathy for the Indian, and a desire to have the property of the white settler protected. If the cravings of hunger, however, become insupportable, and the savages about whom we speak commence hostilities, they will of course in the end prove the greater sufferers, even though they succeed in destroying the property and lives of a portion of the whites.

But it is believed by those who should know, and do know, that the expenditure of a few thousand dollars would wholly prevent the happening of such a deplorable state of things. Two or three thousand bushels of barley, placed at Fort Reading, and judiciously distributed to the Indians through the winter, as their necessities might require, would save them from the necessity of stealing, and prevent an amount of suffering horrible to contemplate.

We ask then, for the sake of these suffering Indians, whose unhappy condition appeals so earnestly to the Government for assistance, as well as in the name of the whites, that the Indian Agents take some action in regard to this matter

at once.

RETURNED.—We are happy to state that Dr. T. W. Dawson, Clerk of this county, and E. A. Raines, of Cram Rogers & Co's Express, are again in our midst, having returned from a visit to their Atlantic homes. They are both in the enjoyment of good health. They say it is very pleasant to visit the Atlantic States, but think California is the only country for a California-ized man to live in.

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