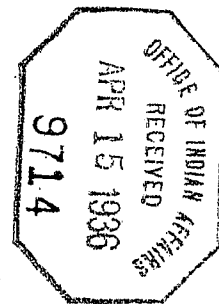


Organization

Sacramento Jurisdiction

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
 FIELD SERVICE
 Sacramento, California



March 10, 1936

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
 Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Daiker and Mr. Jennings

Sir:

Under the Sacramento jurisdiction there are thirty-five different widely scattered tribes or groups who voted to accept the provisions of the Reorganization Act. During the past two weeks I have visited, with Field Agent Kenneth Marmor, most of those who have adopted or are considering the adoption of the Constitutions and By-Laws. We met with the Council members and attended several Council and group meetings.

These groups are scattered over a large area--the distance from the Tule River Reservation on the South to the Fort Bidwell Reservation on the North being over 600 miles. In making the rounds of these scattered groups--and we did not visit them all--we traveled nearly 2,000 miles. Several of the groups who have accepted the Act have so few members and are located on such small worthless tracts of land that it was not thought advisable to talk to them about organizing until some plan can be worked out for providing suitable land where several of the smaller groups can be consolidated into one large group and organized under a single Constitution. It will require considerable time and effort to work out such consolidations and to acquire the several tracts of land that will be necessary for the resettlement of so many small, scattered bands.

There are now eight groups that have adopted Constitutions and By-Laws and elected officers, viz; Big Valley, Manchester and Upper Lake in Mendocino County; Fort Bidwell, in Modoc County; Stewart's Point, in Sonoma County; Tuolumne, in Tuolumne County; Tule River, in Tulare County; and Wilton, in Sacramento County. Several others now have Constitutions pending or in course of preparation. These newly organized groups will require a great deal of guidance and assistance in getting started.

These Indians know practically nothing about conducting business meetings and they are so self-conscious and so reluctant to take the initiative that it is going to require a great deal of close follow-up work to keep their organizations active. Without close and regular

follow-up, and assistance in planning programs, they are almost sure to lose interest and become inactive in a very short time. At the meetings of some of the groups visited their helplessness to proceed in an ^{orderly} ~~orderly~~ business-like manner was pitiable. Some groups and Business Committees will require guidance and encouragement at every step.

These segregated California Indian groups must be regarded as kindergartners in the school of organized planning for their economic and social betterment. They are woefully lacking in leadership and their future welfare and advancement would seem largely to depend on the advantages and facilities that they may possess under Organization. Their development will be a slow process, and it will require time, effort and patience to achieve worthwhile results.

There is back of all this California Indian problem a series of historical facts and events which profoundly affect the present condition of these unfortunate people. Dispossessed as they were by the early gold seekers and reduced to a condition of abject slavery, it is no wonder they are lacking in self-confidence and in race pride. Weak and disunited as they were under their primitive political system, they were an easy prey to the adventurous and fearless pioneer settler. From the position of landlord and freeman, they were swiftly reduced to a state of peonage and serfdom. Never united in large and powerful tribes as were the Plains Indians with able and distinguished war chiefs as their leaders, the California Indians under their patriarchal system are without the background that constitutes the main pillar and support of such tribes as the Sioux, Crow, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, etc. Their weakness has ever been their lack of tribal unity. Divided as they have been, and still are, into numerous small bands owing allegiance to no recognized tribal chief, they never developed an aptitude for large group cooperative effort. Dissension, jealousy, feuds and factional differences continue to prevent the development of a wholesome community spirit and the desire for social and economic betterment. Selfish individualism is still the controlling influence back of their inmost feeling and thought.

This being the historic social and political custom of these loosely confederated bands comprising the larger linguistic families, it is evident that a long course of education and patient, sympathetic guidance and direction will be required to develop these newly organized groups into effective cooperative communities under a Constitutional form of self-government, able to work together and successfully conduct any form of community enterprise. The present regular staff of the Sacramento Agency is inadequate to successfully cope with the situation. A full time organization worker is absolutely essential, if these organized groups are to be active, efficient cooperative bodies and capable of accomplishing anything worthwhile.

I recommend, therefore, that Mr. Kenneth Marmon, Organization Field Agent, be assigned permanently to the Sacramento jurisdiction. As the Carson Agency now has a full time Field Clerk who is giving all of his time to follow-up work with the several Nevada groups, Mr. Marmon is no longer needed in that jurisdiction. He will be of far greater value to the Organization work if he is definitely assigned to this jurisdiction as his principal field of activity. He could then prepare and follow a regular schedule of visits to the different groups, attend their meetings at regular intervals, assist them in planning programs and helping them in various ways to initiate and conduct community activities for their social and economic improvement.

These people need to be induced to engage in cooperative creative effort. If their Organizations are going to accomplish anything, they must be active. Unless they get to doing things and become inspired with the spirit of progress and self-help, they will soon atrophy and die through inactivity and disuse. These Organizations must be kept busy and they will not be kept busy without some one in whom they have confidence to keep continually urging them on. Mr. Marmon is one of their own race, and he possesses the patience, the temperament and understanding to command their respect and confidence. He should be able gradually to inspire them with the desire and the ambition to improve their condition through their own efforts. There is much they could do to make better use of the land and other resources they now have.

If Mr. Marmon is assigned permanently to this Agency, he can then plan and carry out a definite program of education and follow-up work. If, on the other hand, these organized groups are left to themselves with only the irregular and intermittent assistance the Superintendent will be able to give them with his present inadequate field staff, they are quite apt to lose all interest and in the course of a few months to become altogether inactive and ineffective. We cannot afford to permit these infant organizations to die of neglect. They are going to need constant help and guidance for the next two or three years. It is hoped the Office can see its way clear to assign Mr. Marmon permanently to the Sacramento jurisdiction.

Very respectfully,

O. H. Lipps
 O. H. Lipps
 Field Representative

*Copy sent to
 Mitchell
 Harper
 Stewart - Jand
 Crotchford x*

OHL:GGF

cc - Supt. Nash