

SACRAMENTO INDIAN AGENCY
Sacramento, Calif.
Sept. 5, 1933

Mr. Frank Bell
Ione, California.

Dear Mr. Bell:

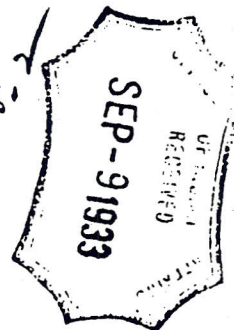
In further reference to your letter of July 29th, addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, regarding the homeless condition of the Indians residing in your County, I am now in receipt of a letter from the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated August 30, 1933, in which he states that there is a possibility that funds might be secured with which to establish a colony of these Indians on the 70 acre tract of land known as the Buena Vista Rancharia located a few miles from the town of Ione.

Before making definite recommendations I should like to ascertain if the Indians in your vicinity would be willing to move to this rancharia in case funds can be secured with which to build houses and make other necessary improvements. In talking with some of them last year I got the impression they were not much interested in the colony plan; they seemed to think they have a better chance to get work and make a living if they have their homes in or near the more densely populated sections of the county.

Mr. Herriweather stated to me recently that several families of these Indians are living in rudely constructed shacks on the outskirts of your town on land belonging to a Chinaman and that this land is about to be sold and the Indians dispossessed. It would seem, therefore, that it is imperative that some arrangement be made to provide homes for them elsewhere.

In addition to the Buena Vista rancharia of 70 acres, we have 370 acres of land in your County near Jackson, which was purchased for homesites for Indians several years ago, and at one time several families lived there. Now there is living on this land only Joe Aleck and his son,

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both in one house. The other houses have all been abandoned by the Indians for whom they were built and have become unfit for occupancy. It is believed, however, that this Jackson rancheria, being much larger than the Buena Vista and located near a main highway, with more water, better land and considerable timber is better suited for a colony and has greater possibilities in every way than the 70 acres known as the Buena Vista rancheria.

I would appreciate it if your Committee would confer with some of the leading Indians in your community and then advise me as to what they think of this proposition. It might be well if your Committee could visit both of these tracts of land, taking some of the Indians with you, and see for yourselves just how they are situated. The amount of land that can be cultivated, the water supply, the chances for the Indians securing employment in the immediate vicinity, etc., are important matters to be considered.

As you no doubt know, it would be a waste of effort and money to undertake to locate these Indians on either of these tracts of land if they prefer some other arrangement. This has been demonstrated on the Jackson rancheria where several years ago a number of small houses were built for Indian families who have long since deserted them and left them to fall into decay and become uninhabitable.

If your Committee will take this matter up with the Indians and advise me as to their conclusions, I shall be glad to give the matter further consideration. If they are interested I will arrange to come over and confer with you and them personally. Since we have these two tracts of land, both practically unoccupied and unimproved, it is not likely it will be possible now to purchase any additional land for the Indians in Anador County.

Please give this matter prompt attention and let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) O. H. LIPPS

OHL:R
CS: Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Salt Lake Extension Office.

O. H. Lipps,
Superintendent.