

Oct. 5, 1933.




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

Sir:

Replying to Office letter dated September 28, 1933, in reference to the tract of land belonging to the Government and located near Jackson, California, I have to advise that it is what was formerly known as the "Digger Indian Reservation". See Office letter dated October 12, 1911 (Land-Allotments, 82971-1911) addressed to Mr. George O. Grist, Additional Farmer in Charge of Digger Indians, Jackson, California.



It appears that on January 7, 1895, John Boggs, of Princeton, Colusa County, California, sold and conveyed by deed to the United States certain described lands in Amador County, near Jackson, California, containing 330.66 acres, for the sum of \$6,600.00. It also appears that in addition to the land purchased for the Indians in Amador County, the Acting Secretary on October 24, 1908, reserved from entry or other disposition 40 acres of adjoining public land, described as the E/2 of the E/2 of the NE/4 of Sec. 2, Twp. 1 No., Range 14 E., M.D.M. "for the use of the Digger Indians reported to be living thereon". The entire tract, therefore, contains 370.66 acres.

There was maintained on this land for several years what was known as the Digger Indian Agency. It, together with the Greenville Agency, the Round Valley Agency, The Tule River Agency, and the Reno (Nev.) Agency, formed the nucleus of what is now the Sacramento Indian Agency.

From old Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, it appears that an attempt was made several years ago to colonize the Indians in Amador County on this tract of land. There are evidences of this attempt still remaining. Parts of a few of the old cabins are still to

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be seen. But with the exception of three families now residing there in two houses -- one cabin and the former Farmer's residence -- the Indians have long since left and scattered out among the white population down in the valley.

I visited Jackson and Ione last week and conferred with Mr. Frank Bell and with Mr. Anson V. Prouty, Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, both of whom are interested in the improvement of the conditions of the Indians in Amador County. They stated that they had talked the matter over with the Indians and that most of them were opposed to the suggestion that they remove to the Jackson reservation. The Indians contend that it is too far from school and employment and that they could not make a living on the land.


This land is located in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains on a paved highway about five miles from the town of Jackson and is a beautiful location for homesites. It is largely forest land with only a few acres of bottom land in cultivation. There are good springs and beautiful oak trees and in the hands of industrious white people with the capital to clear the land and build homes, it would soon be developed into an attractive rural community with gardens, orchards and vinyards. But for the Indians in Amador County, who live mostly near the town of Ione, where they find some employment, there is some question as to the advisability of trying again to establish a colony on the Jackson reservation. It is a matter that requires a good deal of careful study to determine the best thing to be done. Mr. Prouty thinks we should sell this Jackson reservation and the rancheria at Beuna Vista and use the proceeds to purchase a smaller tract of good land in the valley near Ione, giving each family one or two acres of land with water. He thinks that is all the land they could use, or would use, profitably.

Mr. Prouty and Mr. Bell, together with a few other interested citizens, are to hold a conference on this matter soon and then write me as to their conclusions and recommendations. As soon as I hear from them I will advise the Office.

I had planned to have Mr. White make a survey and study of all the Indian rancherias in this jurisdiction before we begin a home improvement program with the view of determining what, in each case, is the practicable thing to do. As he is now on detail at the Fort Duchesne Agency, Utah, it is not known when he will return to California. This whole

and consideration before a decision is reached and before any large sums of money are expended. I hope it may be possible for the Office to have Mr. [redacted] return to his headquarters here for duty as soon as the winter weather in the Uintah Basin becomes so severe he can no longer work to advantage there. In this mild climate outdoor work can be done throughout the winter months.

Very respectfully,


O. H. Lippa,
Superintendent.

OHL:MR

CC to Salt Lake Extension Office.