

ANSON V. PROUTY

IONE SERVICE STATION

Main Street and Preston Avenue

SUPERVISOR TWP. NO. 2

Ione, Amador County, California

November 25; 1933.

Mr O H Lipps
Superintendent Indian Agency
Office of Indian Affairs U. S.
Sacramento; California.



Dear Sir:

Referring to correspondence on the subject of Indian Welfare concerning the Indians of Amador County; Calif.; I submit the following, after deliberate consideration; and after consultation with others who advice is prudent and cautious.

The plan, briefly, proposes the purchase of a tract of tillable land of sufficient size for expansion. Such a tract of fine tillable land is probably available in the vicinity of Ione:

That each Indian family be given an acre of this tillable land with a house thereon sufficient for needs:

That each parcel be tilled and developed by the individual family, and in the united group competition for excelling be made a laudable object, with generous recognition thereof; by the U S Indian Service Superintendent; and such committee as he may have elected for such service: Vegetables; fruits, flowers, poultry, dairying, in a small way; and so on.

All looking towards an increase in standards of living; in the pleasure and pride of residence under happier circumstances.

In the vicinity of Ione may be found a climate that is pleasing, sufficient rainfall, and water sufficient for all needs, (as irrigation etc.), fine highways; fine schools, churches; electric power; every modern advantage. It may be said that rural life borders on the ideal; for here too will be employment in such kind as appeals to the group. Clay and brick plants, where our Indians are now employed, ranch work; wood chopping; and many of the women as house servants when such employment is available.

Page 2 RE Indian Welfare - Indians of Amador County California.

This favorable picture is not based on idle speculation.

In contrast; I present the picture which is of today:

Indian citizens living in squalor, although desiring and having the faculties for better living conditions:

Unwanted because they are Indians, in the residences sections; they have sought the outskirts of towns in this county, as elsewhere in this great country.

During the past two or three years they have fared most uncertainly; for these people life is a mere existence, with that constant anxiety as to how to make ends meet.

Please note that all of these Indians are registered in the enrollment of California as "beneficiaries" in the so-called California Treaties. Years and years unfold, and the matter of justice from one Congress to the next; while Humanity is sacrificed at the stake of calloused indifference ~~at~~ and political standstill asse nt.

The "reservations" here are typical of others in the country; just tracts of useless land; usually without water. Two such might be sold and proceeds added to the purchase of better location. One; however; is in a beautiful location; but for modern expansion and employment possibilities for the Indian stands totally unpractical.

Several of the younger group are High School graduates; and if afforded an opportunity would in all probability made some notable records. With such limited earnings as the section's wages provide; it is impossible for such folk to build modern homes; or even participate in modern standards of living. We send these children to school to understand American life; and then forget to place the opportunity for their active participation in this life.

Very truly yours;

AV Prouty
Anson V. Prouty

AVP / MHW