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Geyserville, Cal.

Jan. 9, 1939.

Clarence F. Lea,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lea:

You will no doubt remember when several years ago the Dept., at Washington bought a piece of land here near the Litton school house. Now we are having trouble here about it, and I have been requested to write and lay the matter before you in hope some answer will be received explaining the reason for it. Three or four years ago, our people went over to Sacramento asking Mr. Lipp for permission to move onto their land, and was refused on the grounds that the dept., did not wish them to build shaks there and would soon have plans for getting money to build decent houses. They have never heard from that again. This winter, a man named Bert Steel from the Covelo reservation who was undesirable there, tried to get in at the Stewards Point place, and then came over here, together with another man from the Stewards Point reservation, and took 16 acres apiece of the Litton place, built them houses on the most desirable parts of the land and these people hate this man Steel, and most positively resent his coming here, and feel with those who have heard of it that neither one of them have any right on this place, there is bitter feeling and serious trouble will result if something is not done about it soon. A delegation of Indians went to Sacramento about six weeks ago and met with Mr. Hooper, who looked up the papers that proved this land had been bought for them alone and they prepared a protest to put into the hands of the chief of the Dept., Mr. Nash, no answer ever came from it. Then they came to me, thinking I would be listened to. I telephoned to the office at Sac, Mr. Hooper talked to me and said they would look into it. No answer, then the two tribes got up a petition, with the 84 names of the whole two bands, I wrote a letter with it and sent it to Mr. Nash, about 4 weeks ago. No answer as we only asked for information about the right of these men to build there and why our own could not have the place, we should have had some word. Last week 3 Indians went to the office and still got no satisfaction. Jan. 7th the two bands held a protest meeting at the old reservation, and some talking had to be done to prevent violence, last night the delegates came to me again asking that I write to you and perhaps you, at least would write to us at once and say what we are to do. It seems that a man named F. S. Sloth of Lake Port is lending the money for these people to build and so fars as our people can find out, gave the men permission to build on the Litton place.

Now the cabin belonging to an Indian named Marion Miranda, of the Wahpo reservation, down along the river toward Healdsburg, burned down while back, and this same Sloth, is to lend him money to come and build on the new place. None of our two bands, the Geyserville and Drycreek bands, that the place was purchased for have had permission to go there and build, and not one of them would live near this Steel. There is very bad blood between them and always has been between those tribes, the one he belongs to and these.

I am begging you, Mr. Lea, to send us an answer at once before there is something done we will all regret explaining the reasons for this trouble. These men, Steel and Meyers planted out hay and a road has been built on the place and

they, our own Indians want their own place and I do not blame them.

This last time the tree Indians went to Sacramento to talk to the U. S. District Attorney, who they thought would give them advice, but he said he was working under Nash and could not give out any information, I was of the opinion that he should give free advice to any one.

I think this covers the situation at present, please answer at once.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Belle Leroux (Signed)

Manuel Cordova       "  
Steven Smith       "  
Joseph Williams       "  
Alfred Elgin       "

Delegates

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