

Mr. Roy W. Ash Supt.
Sacramento Indian Agency
Sacramento, Cal.

File No. _____ Ukiah, Cal. Feb. 21, 1909

Subject - LYTTON-RANCHERIA

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SACRAMENTO INDIAN AGENCY

To

For your information I am again writing with reference to the Geyserville or Lytton matter. Last Sunday, February 19th, Pete Manuel of the Geyserville Rancheria, came to see me and talk things over, as he said. The sum and substance of his talk ran some thing like this: They (meaning the band actually living, composed mostly of the Geyserville faction of the band known as Geyserville-Dry Creek Indians) had talked the thing over after the Healdsburg meeting at which the Indians showed more hostility than good sense, and had concluded that they, the Geyserville faction, did not want to make trouble, nor did they care much whether Bert Steel stayed on ~~at~~ at Lytton or not. That they would like to get from the Government was as follows: - homes, like the ones built on the Coyote Valley Rancheria north of Ukiah, and water piped to the cabins from a spring on the side of the hill on the Geyserville Rancheria. They do not want to move off the present Rancheria; but prefer to remain there and work out from there. Seems fair enough.

I asked him about how many Indians wanted homes such as they had in mind, and he said there would be five or six families, most of whom are now living on the Rancheria.

Pete Manuel is the middle-aged Indian ^{Indian} who asked who paid for Bert Steel's house at Lytton; he got up and several questions more at the Healdsburg meeting. This faction that went to remain is the faction of the Geyserville band that supported the Wheeler lot but was out voted by the other crowd. Those actually and at all times lived on the Rancheria wanted the lot, but those of the band that cling to Collett and did not actually live on the Rancheria were the ones that defeated the lot, in spite of our efforts to win the opposition over. Bert Steel was one of the most outspoken Indians in opposition to the Wheeler-Howard bill. These two factions have never gotten along very well and they are not now as a unit in wanting to oust Bert Steel; - the Geyserville proper not inclined to make a fight of it.

The Collett faction in and around Geyserville is in the majority, and Bert Steel, more than any-one else, is responsible for holding the Indians in line for Collett and in opposition to everything sponsored by the Government. This attitude on the part of Steel and his later change of mind, as they see it, to get him sold in on the Lytton place, is mostly the reason for the bitter feeling the Indians have for Steel. They think he sold them down stream.

I am giving you this information for what it is worth, if anything. And if you should see fit to continue dealing with these people, Pete Manuel, Geyserville, Sonoma County, is the Address.

Yours respectfully,

Stephen Knight

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