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*Sacramento-Terrace Band*

*file*

San Carlos Indian Reservation  
San Carlos, Arizona.

Feb. 13, 1918



Mr. W. J. Meldrum,  
1019 K Street,  
Sacramento, Calif.

307.4

My dear Mr. Meldrum:

This is in reply to yours of Feb. 8, 1918, requesting that I send you copy of the contract you executed to sell to the United States of America your 160 acres of land in El Dorado County, desired as the village home for the Sacramento, Yuma and other landless Indians of California.

In this connection you are advised that it appears from my files that the original contract to sell was by me forwarded to the Indian Office at Washington, D.C., on November 18, 1916.

For your information and convenience I herewith enclose a copy of said contract or agreement made from the copy of the original from my files, marked Exhibit "A", which you will observe bears date October 3, 1913.

For your further information will be found enclosed copies of two of your letters to me in relation to this transaction, dates Aug. 9, 1916 and September 12, 1916, marked Exhibits "B" and "C", respectively.

Copies of these two letters are enclosed as I infer from your letter that you likely failed to keep copies of your letters in connection with this proposed purchase.

You will note by reference to my several letters to you from time to time relative to this matter that no specific or definite promise or assurance was given as to when this sale might be consummated. I regret that there have been so many unavoidable delays, but see no reason now, that the Office has approved my recommendation for the purchase of your land, why same may not closed at an early date.

All that is necessary now is to forward to me here your warranty deed conveying to the "United States of America" the 160 acres set out in your agreement, using the usual form in use in California, accompany same with complete abstract of title certified to by some bonded abstract company, which abstract should show the property free from all liens, mortgages, etc., and that all taxes thereon are paid.

Noting that portion of your letter wherein you express surprise that it is desired to consummate this proposed purchase as you express it, "after the amount of trouble the Indians caused El Dorado Co authorities" beg to say or rather suggest, that one of the several reasons for the purchase of



land for the landless Indians of your State is to materially better their condition in life.

Possibly, had these Indians you named as having violated the game and other laws of your State been differently situated; owned sufficient land for their cabin homes, gardens, orchards and other small crops that would have kept hunger from them in their squat locations, pitched from time to time where ever owners of land may be kindly disposed to permit, these infractions of your laws would not have been made.

Of all people of this great Government of ours, in particular those responsible for the penal laws of your great State, none, it occurs to me, should be more tolerant towards the poor landless Indians of California than your wonderfully bless people.

*will* When you have correctly recalled the history of your State you, I am sure, not fail to realize and appreciate that the poor, unlettered, homeless and landless Indians by the strongest rights, those of discovery and possession, occupied your most beautiful and richest valleys and undisputed right to fish in the waters teeming with that tribe and hunt in the fatness of the mountain and hills filled with many kinds of wild game.

Your Indians (California) unlike most all other Indians found upon these shores (United States) without armed resistance, have surrendered all these pleasures and blessings to those of your people who now so richly and abundantly enjoy them. The unlettered Indian, living in his somewhat wild state, close to nature, could not and did not understand other than but that discovery and peaceable possession was title absolute. He slept in absolute fancied security of this conviction until it was too late: Her was this all; he was not called upon to surrender his all in way of land home and attending blessings, but not infrequently was the sacred sanctity of his home invaded with the white man's "firewater" that unholy advantage might be taken of wife and daughter.

Really, as I see it, my friend, Meldrum, this little pittance on the part of our Government in way of buying small tracts of land for the landless Indians of your State is only a very small share of belated justice.

Kindly forward to me at your earliest date your deed and abstract that we may close this long pending purchase soon.

The Office advises me that it is desired to close up all pending purchases that the money appropriated for same may be hypothecated before same reverts back into the U.S. Treasurer.

Hoping to hear from at an early date, I am,  
Very respectfully,

Inspector, Indian Service.

*For information Commissioner Indian Affairs*