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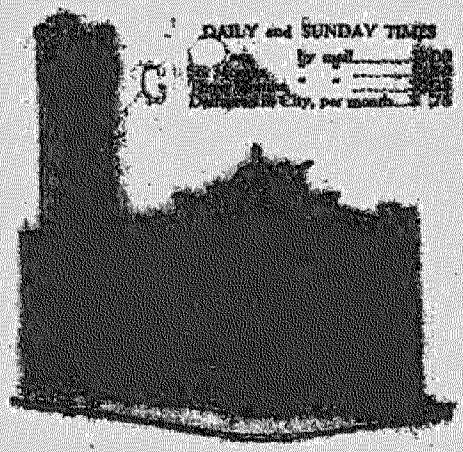

Los Angeles, Cal. December 4, 1915

OFFICE OF [illegible]

Mr. E. B. Meritt,
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Responding to yours of November 23rd, I have to inform you that I am not the manager of the Tejon Ranch Syndicate, so called. I am only one of a Board of Control, who are acting as trustees for the syndicate that owns the property.

The matter of the Tejon Indians has been up several times and it appears to me that the case is being brought up from time to time as the result of some agitation by interested parties, who must have some selfish motive in keeping the question of the Indians location constantly stirred up.

For many, many years this tribe of Indians has been welcome on the Tejon Ranch in the same location that they now have. They have been and are now paying the nominal rental of $1.00 per year for a lease of the property which they use. The lease has been renewed each year for many years past and the arrangement appears to have been invariably satisfactory, both to the Indians and the owners of the ranch. During the last few months some outside influence appears to have been trying to create some dissatisfaction among the Indians. Not more than one of them has ever made any complaint that any of the conditions surrounding their life there is other than satisfactory.

The syndicate, as I have before written, are not willing to give title to the land occupied by the Indians. It would be creating a reservation in the very heart of the very large tract and might at some future time make the sub-division and sale of the adjoining properties difficult, although at the present time the owners have no definite plans as to the sub-division of the property. In fact, it is the intention to have the property carried on in the future the same as it has been in the past and to give the Indians such employment as the owners of the ranch find it mutually beneficial for them to do.

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These Tejon Indians are industrious workers and peaceable people and they have been and are now welcome tenants on the Tejon Ranch property. We have previously written the department in the last few years the status of these Indians and their relations to the property they occupy, and the Board of Control have not in any way changed their very friendly attitude towards the Indians and are not likely to change their ideas about selling land to them.

Yours very truly,

Henry Edwards