

"The Indians in this portion [El Dorado County] of the State are wretchedly poor, having no horses, cattle or other property. They formerly subsisted on game, fish, acorns, etc., but it is now impossible for them to make a living by hunting or fishing, for nearly all the game has been driven from the mining region or has been killed [by miners]. The rivers...formerly were clear as crystal and abounded with the finest salmon...I [used to see] the Indians taking barrels of these beautiful fish and drying them for the winter. But the miners have turned the streams from their beds and [made them] so thick with mud."

-letter from E.A. Stevenson, Special Indian Agent to Hon. Thomas J. Henley, superintendent of Indian Affairs, San Francisco (1853)