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1863 - Report to the California Surveyor General from W. V. McGarvey, Monterey County Assessor

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MONTEREY COUNTY.

W. V. McGARVEY.....County Assessor.

SAN JUAN, Monterey County,
October 3rd, 1863.

Hon. J. F. HOUGHTON,
Surveyor-General:

SIR: - Inclosed please find my statistical report of this county for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three. There has been some falling off in the number of stock cattle, as many have been driven out of the county on account of the scarcity of grass; and, also, our stock in horses has fallen off – a disease something like the blind staggers has killed many off in the last year. As to sheep, some considerable number have been driven out of the county, but yet the number is a few thousand more than last year.

We have a matanzas at Monterey, erected by San Jurjo, Bolado & Pajol, and superintended by Messrs. Leigh & Winter. They have been in operation since the first of May, and have been killing from sixty to one hundred head of cattle per day for hides and tallow. They have also killed a few sheep. Many of the cattle have been poor cattle, and, I might say, they were killing them to save their lives, as they would undoubtedly have died the coming winter, and were purchased at very low prices – from one dollar and a half to two dollars per head – which will explain to you the low value of the whole number of cattle slaughtered.

In the culture of tobacco, I can only say that but very few have as yet tried it, and all have succeeded beyond their expectations. You may look for tobacco from here in a few years.

Very respectfully yours,

W. V. McGARVEY,
Assessor of Monterey County.