

**Indian Reservations.**

ARCATA, Feb. 7th, 1862.

S. G. Whipple: Dear Sir:—I see by your paper of last week, that Mr. Hanson, Sup't. of Indian Affairs for California, has purchased the farm of Col. Buel, in Smith River Valley, for a home for the Indians. The wisdom of this step cannot be doubted by any one, now that the Klamath Reserve has been destroyed by the floods, and I trust that Government will at once endorse the purchase. I now wish to enquire if it would not be well—indeed, is it not necessary—for Government to have Hoopa Valley for the same purpose? I could call the attention of your readers, and of those having Indian matters in charge, to various advantages to be derived from such a contingency; but you being well posted in the premises, and having been yourself at one time in the Indian Department in that locality, I leave to your own discretion the propriety of advocating the measure, and showing the advantages, if not the necessity, of negotiating for Hoopa.

Yours, &c                      CITIZEN.

We agree with our correspondent that Hoopa Valley is admirably adapted to the purposes of an Indian Reservation. It is completely isolated,—being surrounded on all sides by uninhabitable mountains,—has an abundance of good land for cultivation, and the river abounds in Salmon and other varieties of fish, while the mountains contiguous, are amply supplied with game. When the location was made upon the Klamath the superior advantages of Hoopa were well understood and urged, by the agent appointed to make an examination and report upon an eligible situation for an Indian Reservation, but the Superintendent of Indian Affairs of California recommended the Klamath, as an immediate outlet to Government would thereby be saved. The policy we thought at the time to be a mistaken one though satisfied that the Superintendent acted, as he thought, for the interest of Government. Had Hoopa then been selected and the improvements purchased, there would now be a reservation capable of subsisting all the Indians of this district, and at a cost not exceeding the amount which has been expended upon the Klamath Reserve.

Next to Hoopa there is no place in Northern California where the Indians can be so easily gathered and maintained as in Smith River Valley. Mr. Hanson informs us that he has recommended to the Department the purchase of all the land between Smith river and the Oregon line, extending back from the coast some fifteen miles. This area embraces several well improved farms, a flouring mill, saw mill, and several thousand acres of excellent tillable land. The settlers in the valley have offered to sell out to Government for an aggregate sum of \$58,000. Agent Hanson will urge the purchase of this valley and it will probably be effected, unless it can be shown that an equally suitable place can be obtained upon more favorable terms.

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