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a Looseners! -- "Indian Resevance Again." San Francisco Daily Alta February 24, 1852: p. 2. col. 4

There seems to be in both Senate and Assembly this year, gentlemen ambitions of distinguishing themselves like our worthy Governor, by running a till with the Indian Agents of the U.S. Like him they can put forth in reports and speeches, grave charges, lixing upon them and their official acts either lack of common sense, or lack of patriotism, based upon mere street rumor. They too have be in " credibly informed," so and so. Unfortunately for some great men, in their abundant seal as leaders of a party—they commit themselves to mistakes or misrepresentations, from which it is extremely embarrasing to extricate themselves, when the subject comes to be investigated.

Whether in the end the real interests of party can be subserved by such no worthy means, is questionable. The sober reflecting, fair thinking portion of the Democratic party, (this year in the majority) cannot fail to discover that mere assertions, though a thousand times repeated, are not proofs, and that something more is required, especially if equally intelligent and respectable men have again and spain denounced them as false, slanderous and incapable of proof. Such, I take it, is the present posture of the controversy as between the polycicians at the Capital and the Indian Commissioners. Those gentlemen's motives have been very unkindly, ungenerously attacked, and their policy denounced, in reports and speeches, in their absence; and where, even if present, they would have had no opportunity of defending either.

Is the legislation of our great State to be based on information obtained, or reports made, in this way? Too much hasty, ill-digested, hap-hazard legislation has already marked our history as a State. How many laws have been passed which have not been modified or repealed by subsequent Assemblies? We have not only been "too much governed," but too hastily governed.

To notice all the instances of wild, hasty, "go it blind" recommendations by our Governors, or legislation in the two Houses, would require a volume. Let me just refer to a few recent instances, by way of illustration.

First in importance is the slight mistake of between six and seven hundred thousand dollars, in Gov. Bigler's estimate of the State debt; vide his celebrated special message. After this had gone to the public, and had its effect upon the value of our State stocks, (whether designedly or not is quien sabe?) along comes a special report from a committee, correcting the error, but failing to account for the discrepancy. "Loose Legislation, or Legislation with from a committee, correcting the error, but failing to Again." San Francisco Daily Ala account for the discrepancy. February 24, 1852: p. 2. col. 4.

What confidence can hereafter be placed in any of his money estimates or calculations, or those of his "Comptroller of State" 1 In the same special message, the Governer, speaking of the Indians, says :---

"To say nothing of the policy of the General Government settling in the very midst of our State vast tribes of savages, with exclusive landed privileges," dc

Is this a statesmanlike view of the subject? Is it a fair one 1 In a word, Is it true?

When did the General Government undertake to settle vast tribes of savages in the very centre of the State? I rather think the Indiana inhabited the whole valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin (of which only a very small portion is now set apart for their use.) long before 'Uncle Sam'' made their acquaintance, or Gov. Bigler conceived the idea of instructing him in his duties?

So far as "Uncle Sam's" agents in California have acted in the matter at all, it has been to remove the Indians as far as possible from the centre of the State, and settle them along the foot hills of the Sierra. In most cases, however, the Indians have been opposed to removal from the hunting grounds and fishing dams of their forefathers, and at the date of the special message were, in the general, just where they always had been, though in greatly reduced numbers. So much for Goy, Bigler.

Let us look for a moment at his friend, Senator Wambaugh.

A few days since this gentleman made an elaborate report, as a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, making a furious onslaught upon the Indian Agents and their treaties, accompanying the same with a wordy, boisterous, abusive speech, and a recommetdation that the Sonate should adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, As the sense of the Senate and Assembly of California, that the policy pursued by the Federal Government towards the Indian tribes in this State, is wholly and radically wrong, and sould be rejected.

Resolved, That our Senators &c. in Congress, be instructed to oppose the confirmation of any and all treaties with Indians of this State, granting to them an exclusive right to occupy any of the public lands in the State.

Resolved, That the policy so long and steadily pursued by the General Government, of removing the said Indians beyond the jurisdiction of the States, is conceived in wisdom and dictated by humanity, and is productive of tranquility and happiness to the whole country, and that no other can with safety be adopted within this State.

Besolved, That our Senators ac. in Congress, be instructed to use their best endeavors to procure the adop I lion by the Federal Government, of the same course towards the Indians of this State, that has been pursued in 1 other States for the last quarter of a century.

These resolutions evinced not only a lamentable igno-

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These resolutions evinced not only a lamentable ignorance of the rules of English grammar, but of the history of the policy and negotiations to which they refer, and if adopted and sent to Washington, would deserve a place in the Patent Office among the richest " California specimens."

In the debate which followed, another honorable Senator, Mr. Van Buren, exhibits the accuracy of his acquaintance with Indian affairs. He asserted that "The conduct of the Commissioners had induced many of the Indians to desert their homes and masters, and escape into the mountains " "they were comfortable and contented until the Commissioners came among them;" that their course approximated, he thought, to "that of those abolition gentry who induced Southern slaves to flee from their masters;" "that he understood they had expended from five hundred to seven hundred thousand dollars for beef alone to feed them;" "there were beef contractors who had been greatly benefitted by this expenditure men bad grown rich from it," ac, ac, &c. "Such consideracions should, he thought, influence the Senate in condemning the course of the Commissioners, by adopting the renoiations." IT . . . .

Now, Messrs. Editors, would any man outside of this land of wonders believe that such statements could have emanated from a man occupying Mr. Van Baren's position-claiming to be a statesman, and "a burning and a shining light' in the great Democratic church? He was, during the Indian difficulting, the representative of the San Joaquin district, where they existed, long prior to the arrival of the Commissioners. He knew, or should bave known, that, weeks before, the Indians had fled to their mountain fastnesses ; that nearly two months were consumed before the Commissioners could induce the tribes to come down into the valley to talk or treat about peace; and finally, when peace was made, and the treatics executed, that it was the Commissioners who brought the Indians down from the mountains-advised them to lay aside their arms, and endeavor to make themselves useful, by working for themselves or for the whites, who by this time were reassured and returning to the country. As to the expenditure of Ave hundred or seven hundred thousand dollars, for beef, I conclude the honorable Senstor has " drawn upon his imagination for his facts."

I happen to know that the whole amount of money expended by the Commissioners ad far falls short of \$60.000. I have understood that to keep the Indians on the Mariposs and San Joaquin (ront)er quiet and contented, the agent for that district has taken the responsibility of contracting for a few hundred head of Spanish cattle, the profits on which, whatever they may be, to enure, not to the Commissioners or their political friends, but to the honorable Senator's personal and political friend, Hon. "Loose Legislation, or Legislation with norable Senator's personal and political friend, Hon. a Looseners! -- "Indian Reservations of the senator's personal and political friend, Hon. Again." San Francisco Daily Ala John C. Frement! February 24, 1852: p. 2. col. 4.

At the risk of taxing your patience and good nature, I must nevertheless give. you one more specimen, taken from a report of the Assembly's proceedings on Monday, 16th inst. :----

Indian Reservations.—M. Coates reported from the Committee on Indian Reservations :

The report states that the Ladian Commissioners have set apart large tracts of the nost valuable agricultural and mineral lands of the State, to the injury of a great number of citizens who had settled upon the same, and acquired rights which are thus sacrificed. The reservations are estimated to include a population of 20,000 persons, and are of a value not less than \$100,000,000. The effect upon the mining community, thus deprived of their claims, is represented as most deplorable. The system sweeps away a vast portion of the taxable property of the State. The reservations are deemed very injurious to the interests of the race which they are designed to benefit. The report recommends the policy of removing the Indiana beyond the limits of the State. The committee state that they are satisfactorily informed that claims have been bought by the parties connected with the Indian Commission, that contracts are given to preferred parties, and not to such as would most cherply perform the work The report concludes with recommending to Congress that the treaties be not confirmel, and that a strict in vestigation be made into the dilicial conduct of the Commissioners, which the committee believe to have been reprehensible in the highest degree, and inflicting great injary and fraud upon the Government. The report was received, and three hundred comies prdered to be printed.

This report must be decided yr cb, though I submit a very questionable data upon which to base legislative action. If correctly reported, in the synopsis from the Times and Transcript, it is, I are authorized to say, a tissue of false and alanderous decidenation from beginning to end. Upon four-fifths of the reservations made by the Commissioners no white family or individual resided at the time they were made, and on all the others there could not have been, including Mexicans, Chilians and Chinese, certainly over 200 whites. Mr. Coats says 20,000! As to the value of improvements included in the reservations, all is guess work. Mr. Coats guesses 100 millions of dollars -1 guess ten, or at most twenty thous, and dollars !

Mr. Coates says the Committee f are satisfactorily in formed," that " claims" have been bought by parties connected with the indian Commission that contracts are given to preferred parties, &c. That some of the employces or Quartermaster's men; connected with the Indian Commissionets in their various expeditions, may have bought claims and remained behind to work or improve them, is probable enough, but that the Commissioners have at v such interests or were in their negotiations in could not have been, including Mexicans, Chillans and Chinese, bettainly over 200 whites Mr. Coats says 20,000! As to the value of improvements included in the reservations, all is guess work. Mr. Coats guesses 100 millions of dollars -1 guess ten, or at most twenty thous and dollars I

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