

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 209

The extraordinary rise in the price of every description of clothing and other supplies, and depreciation of the legal currency, render the estimate necessarily larger than it would be otherwise.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, Northern District, California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 29.

NEW YORK, *February 24, 1863.*

DEAR SIR: I did not receive yours of the 18th until the 20th, and too late for me to sail by the present or steamer of the 21st; consequently I concluded to stop over till the 1st of March, or go by stage overland. I called this morning for you at the St. Nicholas, Metropolitan and Astor House, but could hear no account of you; hence I write again, thinking it probable your delicate condition of health may have prevented your arrival last evening. When I wrote to you last, I informed you I had been examining goods and pricing them, and came to the conclusion it would be very bad policy to purchase here at present prices. Remember, our appropriation will be very small; consequently we cannot at present prices here realize more than about one-third as many goods as at former rates; again, those I have talked to seem to prefer not crediting the government but a very short time, even at those prices—certainly not until July next. Hence, I reason as follows, viz: the present cold weather is too far advanced to benefit the Indians with clothing now, and the prospects are that goods will be much lower before another winter sets in—at any rate, certainly not any higher, for I see cotton in Liverpool has fallen, and the prospects of a *large increase* of the staple in South Sea islands and the Indies, to say nothing of our southern States, to me gives assurance of a great reduction in goods. At any rate, I think we should postpone until the summer months; or I can have time to re-examine prices in San Francisco, when, and from whence, I can send you a bill of such things as are most needed.

I thank you kindly for the information from Round valley. I received a copy of the testimony in printed form sent by our California delegation jointly, Messrs. Phelps, Lord and Sargent, last evening, and have read it very carefully; and while I am compelled to express my surprise at the concessions made by Mr. Short, the supervisor, and his son, whose testimony seems to show they had a previous knowledge of the intended outrages and murders committed against the Indians, yet I can plainly see the examination had was a one-sided affair, and very different from what I had always been told by the employés and several others, especially in regard to the killing of the Indians and kidnapping of children. I see all the witnesses confess the murder in August, and no doubt most of them were concerned in the outrage. If the Shorts knew of the outrage to be perpetrated and did not try to prevent it, I shall, by your permission, discharge them all; but the supervisor certainly, in August, wrote to me complaining of the outrages, and said, "their only excuse for killing the Indians was, *they were afraid they would leave the reservation some night and run off with some of their stock, &c.*"

The fact of the United States having cattle, hogs, horses and mules, and the Indians never killing or stealing any of them, is sufficient proof to me they are grossly persecuted by the settlers, nearly all of whom I know to be sworn enemies to the Indians, and also to their government and the Indian employé. Mr Short I appointed supervisor at the instance and particular request of his

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excellency Mr. Lincoln, who knew him long and well, and said he was a good man for that position, and I would on his account dislike his removal. Nevertheless I feel sure the President would not wish me to retain his best friend to the injury of the service.

As to the fence allow me to say, the part that was open was at the base of the mountain, on the back of the farm, where the water from the cañon washed it away. I was there in the latter part of the spring, and gave Mr. Short particular instructions to repair it in time, as there were plenty of rails already made, and he said he would do so; but he said that "no cattle or hogs ranged on the back part of the farm," and the bluffs were abrupt, and no danger of stock interfering with the crop; neither do any of the witnesses say the stock got in at that place. The truth is, they have been trying to have General Wright rescind his order declaring martial law, and authorizing their removal from the valley. These orders were made at my request, enclosing to the general the letters of the witnesses, James Short, James Robinson, and Dr. Melindy, making the complaint.

If further explanation be necessary, please inform me before I leave for California, and also in regard to the removal of the Shorts, and all who had a knowledge of the intended outrage in August last.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent.

HON. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
