

SATURDAY, . . . FEBRUARY 25, 1860.

Indian Affairs in California—Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

The following is an extract from the report of the Secretary of the Interior in regard to Indian affairs in California:

The management of our Indian affairs in California has been attended with a variety of difficulties. Neither the Government of the United States nor the State of California recognises in the Indians any right of exclusive occupancy to any specific lands. Reservations have been provided by law; a large number of Indians has from time to time been collected upon them, and large sums of money have been expended to establish them, with the hope that they would soon learn to support themselves by their own labor, and gradually become civilized. But these expectations have not been realized. Through the mismanagement and neglect of our employees, the interference of our citizens, and the apparent impossibility of inducing these Indians to labor thereon, the reservation system of California has proved a failure. Yet the Government cannot relieve itself from all obligation to make provisions for this destitute population.

The Indians of California divide themselves into two general classes by their respective localities. Those living in Southern California, having already made some progress in civilization under the Mexican mission system, are scattered in small bands, cultivate the soil, and subsist in part upon the products of their own labor. For the security and happiness of these, nothing more need be done by Government than to issue them the quiet, undisturbed possession of their present homes, keeping up possibly a single general reservation. And to effect this no additional legislation is required.

The Indians in Northern California, with some exceptions, are roving, thriftless, idle and debased; often provoking the vengeance of the settlers, who are thus excited to acts of violence.

In this division of the State, some reservations, some retreats, must be prepared for the reception of those who cannot obtain employment from our citizens and thus become vagrants and nuisances to the commu-

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come vagrants and nuisances to the commu-
nity. Such Indians might be removed by
force, if necessary, to the reservations, and
there compelled to labor. With an anxious
desire to devise some plan of operations
which promise to secure the welfare of the
Indians on the one hand, and relieve the
treasury from the support of a helpless and
dependent population on the other, I would
recommend, as the most practicable policy,
the abolition of the superintendency, agen-
cies, and sub-agencies, and the division of
the State into two distinct Indian districts.
For each division a single agent should be pro-
vided, with power to employ such assistants
as may be authorized by the Department.
Wherever it is possible to procure employ-
ment for the Indians among our own people,
the agents should be required to aid them in
~~obtaining places.~~ It should be the duty of
the agents to protect the bands that are set-
tled down in the quiet possession of their
homes, and to instruct them in the arts of
husbandry. It should also be the duty of
the agents to collect all vagrants upon the
reservations, and to induce them to labor.—
This plan is recommended by its economy
and by the prospect it holds out for the se-
curity of the Indians.

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