

~~Indian Affairs.~~

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Governor's Message, Mr. Van Dyke, from the Judiciary Committee, introduced the following, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs:

Whereas, the Legislature at its last session in view of the fact that vast sums of money had been expended by the Government in regard to Indian matters on this coast, without resulting in any advantage or benefit either to the frontier settlers or to the Indians themselves, memorialized Congress for a change of policy in the premises, asking for a removal of all undomesticated Indians to distant Reservations so they could not return; and whereas, no action has yet been taken by the General Government in compliance with said memorial; and whereas, during the last year Indian disturbances, depredations and murders have been of frequent occurrence, through an extensive portion of the State; and whereas, it is now attempted to have the General Government confirm the selection of a Reservation in Smith River Valley, Del Norte county, and another in Round Valley, Mendocino county, against the remonstrance and protests of the people in those and other counties in that portion of the State; and whereas, these Reservations being within easy communication with the section mostly infested with hostile tribes, the Indians can and do, as often as captured and taken to said Reservations, escape therefrom, to repeat, with increased effectiveness, their deeds of plunder and murder; and whereas, the purchase of these Reservations, while it would be a useless expense to the Government, would also inflict an irreparable injury upon that part of the State; and whereas, the appropriations now annually wasted upon the various Reservations in this State, with but a small portion of the means exhausted in military expeditions employed in attempting to subdue the Indians, or in trying to guard the lives and property of our citizens against sudden outbreaks and attacks, would, if upon said Reservations distant from their former homes, thoroughly guard all the Indians in the State, and make their condition far more comfortable than at present; therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That this Senate, as a matter of justice and right, demands of the General Government, whose duty it is to take care of its wards—the Indians—some speedy action whereby our people may be relieved from the present incessant disturbances, depredations and murders committed by the savages; that as a practical mode of remedying the existing evils in this regard, a competent and suitable Agent should be appointed to select a Reservation sufficiently distant and detached from the section principally infested by hostile Indians, as fast as they can be gathered in by the military or otherwise, should be removed, and there colonized—the Government having exclusive jurisdiction over said Reservation, so as to prevent conflicts with local authorities.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, without delay to bring the subject of Indian affairs on this coast to the attention of our Government; and to use their influence to have the changes herein suggested adopted and carried into effect.

Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

