

An Editorial View of Indian Matters.

In the *Klamath News* of February 16th we find a lengthy article relating to the Battalion of "Mountaineers" raised over a year and a-half ago for the purpose of subduing hostile Indians in this and neighboring counties. The editor very truthfully shows that the "Regular" military arm of the Government proved inadequate to the task to be performed; that it was necessary to secure the co-operation of mountain men—men acquainted with Indian character and habits, to effectually subdue them.

So far, good. The *News* man places the counties of Humboldt, Klamath and Del Norte in the "Humboldt Military District," leaving Trinity "out in the cold" so far as any participancy in the prosecution of the late Indian campaign was concerned. It is rather a matter of pride with us to have the outside world know that Trinity bore a hand in the arduous work to be performed—pride to know that the men enlisted in this county have been perhaps as active in carrying out the objects of the campaign as those of any other Company enlisted for that service. What the grand result will be is a problem which time alone can solve. The history of past Indian wars, and that of Reservations heretofore established for the use and protection of Indians on this coast, is a matter to which we have little heart to refer; whether there will be any im-

wars, and that of Reservations heretofore established for the use and protection of Indians on this coast; is a matter to which we have little heart to refer; whether there will be any improvement in the future remains to be seen.

In the course of the article in question the editor says :

“ At the time when the ‘ Mountaineers ’ might have accomplished something, the civil authorities intervened between them and the object for which they were enlisted, and a treaty was made with the Indians, involving a great sacrifice on the part of the whites, which, notwithstanding all its disadvantages, we hope may be lasting. The people of Klamath have submitted to the sequestration of the most valuable agricultural tract in the county, for the use and benefit of those to whom the halter alone was due, with as good grace as they might under the circumstances. We have thereby lost more of our producing population, and it is not too much to ask that those of our citizens who enlisted in the Battalion be allowed to return to their respective spheres of usefulness.”

In regard to the intervention of the civil authorities at a time when something “ might have been accomplished ” we know but little. But this we do know : that the present Superintendent of Indian Affairs was not as anxious to have the tract of country in Klamath county set apart for Reservation purposes as some of the owners of the land so set aside. Nor do we believe that Klamath county will suffer much by the “ sequestration ” of the “ valuable agricultural tract ” if Government persists in making it an Indian Reservation; and keeping the rascally red-skins on it. Our candid belief is that if Hoopa Valley continues to be a Reservation for the next five years, that at the end of that time its industrious white population will be greater than it is to-day, and that if properly conducted it will eventuate in benefit to Klamath county. We have already heard property owners in the lower part of this county aver that the establishment of an Indian Reservation in Hoopa Valley would render their lands more valuable, and we

its industrious white population will be greater than it is to-day, and that if properly conducted it will eventuate in benefit to Klamath county. We have already heard property owners in the lower part of this county aver that the establishment of an Indian Reservation in Hoopa Valley would render their lands more valuable, and we believe it. True there may be some secluded little valley in Humboldt or Trinity where the Indians could as well be placed as in Hoopa, but then the *News* man must know that it is necessary to give them a location with hunting and fishing grounds adjacent. Klamath county, we must believe, has suffered much less heavily from Indian outrages than either this or Humboldt; in fact when we think of the scores of homes destroyed, the number of lives sacrificed and the amount of property laid waste along forty miles of Trinity river, and in the south-western portion of the county, we are prone to believe that Trinity has been about as great sufferer from Indian hostilities as any of the counties in question.

Differing with the editor in the last proposition hinted at in the above extract, we suggest that the "Mountainers" be retained in service until it is known that the Indian troubles are really at an end. Keep soldiers near enough to punish with death any who first attempt to infringe on Reservation rules. In that way alone will this last project prove successful. Moreover, if we are not laboring under a wrong impression, the soldiers of the Battalion were enlisted for three years.

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