

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 463

No. 64.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, March 31, 1862.

SIR: Nothing of unusual importance connected with Indian affairs has occurred in the northern district of California since my special report of 14th of February last with the exception of continual and additional trespasses committed by the settlers on the Nome Cult, or Round Valley reservation, in Mendocino county, rendering it beyond a doubt that something must be done immediately, either by law or military force, in order to prevent the settlers from entirely breaking up one of the best Indian reservations in California. I placed this matter before your department on two or three former occasions, informing you that nearly all of the best pasture lands in the valley, the most of which government has under fence, have been entered upon by settlers, surveyed, and purchased by them from the State as "swamp and overflowed lands," thereby destroying the best pasture, cutting down the best timber, and continually throwing down our fences and exposing our crops to destruction. I have not been able to get the legislative protection from the State, and again urge upon your department to instruct me in the course I shall pursue in these difficulties.

I have hitherto urged the propriety of paying all the settlers in the valley for their improvements, and then remove them entirely out of the limits of the reservation, as before proposed in its enlargement.

Peace and quiet generally prevail among all the numerous tribes within the district. Occasionally a few cattle are killed by the starving Indians, whose lives, or others entirely innocent, pay the forfeit or damages.

I have been unable, in consequence of excessive high water in the valleys and deep snows on the mountains, to visit the reservation since my report of last month, but I am fully convinced that, owing to the early and continued rain through the fall and winter, and thus far into the spring, we will be unable to harvest a very good crop the ensuing season. On no former occasion since the first settlement of this country have the farmers and stock-raisers ever met with one-fifth part of the loss they have sustained the present winter and spring seasons. Hundreds have lost both their farms and their stock of cattle, sheep, and horses. Such, indeed, has been the general destruction that years will be required to redeem it. How far the government has shared in this universal calamity cannot be fully ascertained until the waters leave the valleys and the snows the mountains, that diligent search may then be made for the living.

These losses are greatly detrimental to the Indian service in California, from the fact that beef is the great staple of Indian subsistence, and it is to be much regretted that an ample supply could not have been procured while the prices of tame cattle ranged so extremely low. About one thousand head of cows (with their increase) on each reservation would be ample to supply all the milk and butter, together with beef, required, without diminishing the original stock.

Again I beg leave to urge the importance of a sufficient appropriation of money to secure the Smith River valley for an Indian reservation, to supply the loss of the Klamath, as stated in my special report of 14th of February last, for without such provision is made, the government must suffer great loss, and about 2,500 Indians be entirely destitute of a suitable home; and, in connexion with this, we want money enough to pay the settlers for their improvements at Nome Cult, in Round valley, and the removal of them away from the Indians. These two reservations will be sufficient for all the Indians from Oregon to the Lac valley, inclusive, and the amount of money arising from the sale of Mendocino and Nome-Lakee reservations would go far towards replacing the money the government would thus expend, and would also be able to dispense with about one-half the number of employes, which, as an item in

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itself, would in a few years make good to the government the money expended in the enlargement and permanent establishment of two good and suitable Indian reservations.

I have now in preparation my property returns, together with an abstract of disbursements for the third and fourth quarters of 1861, which, from circumstances unavoidable, as before stated, have been thus far delayed, but will now be forwarded in a few days to your department.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, Northern District of California.

Hon. WM. P. DOLE.
