
DISBURSING AGENCY INDIAN DEPARTMENT IN CALIFORNIA,
*San Francisco, April 7, 1852. **

SIR: I beg to enclose, for your perusal, a copy of a letter addressed by me, on the 5th instant, to his excellency the governor of this State, in relation to the recent brutal outrages committed by white men upon the generally harmless and inoffensive Indians on Humboldt bay and Eel river, and also on the Klamath.

Such occurrences are sickening to the mind, as well as disgraceful to our State and national character; yet, in view of the lawless character of crowds upon that frontier, they will probably continue to occur until the strong arm of the government is interposed. In view of the exposed condition of that frontier, and the alarm which these occurrences will have occasioned, I would again respectfully invite your attention to the propriety of sending immediately a small body of troops to each of the Indian reservations near the junction of the Trinity and Klamath, and in Scott's valley. From these points, as centres, the whole region could be traversed, controlled, and protected, and great good would undoubtedly result to both whites and Indians. Fifty or sixty men, well mounted on mules, would probably be sufficient for each post. Timber, for building houses, fences, corrals, &c., is abundant and convenient; grass, for grazing animals, plenty the year round; fish and game inexhaustible; land good for cultivation; nothing to invite or produce disease, with a generally salubrious and delightful climate. I think both officers and men would find it a pleasant, exciting, and desirable service.

A depot for supplies might be established on Humboldt bay, and, by means of a small pack-train, regular communication kept up with both points every two or three weeks. On these points, however, I need not enlarge, for if Major Wessells, who commanded the escort party on my late expedition, has not already reported on the subject, he can readily supply all necessary information. I know of nothing more likely to do good, or which would more fully reassure and gratify the well-disposed white citizens in that region, than the establishment, at your earliest convenience, of these small garrisons.

Another may have to be made on the Upper Trinity river, unless I can induce the Indians there to remove to the colony in Scott's valley; but that region is, as yet, unexplored, and it will be impossible for me

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to examine it, or confer with the tribes, until I receive further remittances from the department at Washington.

With high regard, your most obedient servant,

REDICK McKEE,

U. S. Indian Agent for Northern California.

Brig. Gen. E. A. HITCHCOCK,

Commander Pacific Division, Benicia.
