

Indian Affairs in California.

During the present session of Congress, Senator Conness introduced a bill in relation to Indian Affairs in this State. The bill is entitled, "A bill to provide for the organization of Indian Affairs in California and for other purposes." The provisions of this bill are of considerable consequence to this State, and so far as this portion of the State is concerned their importance is increased, since they contemplate a radical revision of the entire Reservation system, which materially and directly interests our country.

The system that has heretofore prevailed, of placing Indians upon reservations selected from regions over which they have roamed from generation to generation, has itself demonstrated that it has been of no benefit to the Indian, but on the contrary has worked a threefold injury; an injury to the Indians themselves; an enormous and useless expence to the Government because of its utter failure to realize any of the results expected to flow from it, and a curse to the country where reservations have been located, because of their inability to bring the Indians in subjection to the rules, if any there are, pertaining thereto or to retain them after they have been once brought in, or to prevent the commission of depredations by them. Experience has proved that Indians, after they have become acquainted with the civilization that has existed under our past Reservation system, soon exhibited a degree of restiveness that ere long ripened into disgust and open defiance. And when it pleased them they retired to their old haunts more embittered towards the white man, and were soon found upon the war path dealing death and desolation far and near.

As before stated, it was contemplated by the passage of the late Act to effect a radical change in the whole reservation system, and in its place to organize another which shall remedy the evils of the old. Inasmuch as all of our readers are interested in the subject of "our Indian Affairs," we hereto append the Act referred to. Its provisions are as follows:

Section 1. That from and after April 1, 1864, the State of California shall, for Indian purposes, constitute one superintendency, for which the President shall appoint a Superintendent, subject to confirmation by the Senate, at a salary of \$3,000, to reside at such point in the State as the Secretary of the Interior shall designate, and to be allowed a clerk, at \$1,800 per annum. Salaries are, of course, payable in greenbacks.

Sec. 2. That the President may set

Affairs," we hereto append the Act referred to. Its provisions are as follows:

Section 1. That from and after April 1, 1864, the State of California shall, for Indian purposes, constitute one superintendency, for which the President shall appoint a Superintendent, subject to confirmation by the Senate, at a salary of \$3,000, to reside at such point in the State as the Secretary of the Interior shall designate, and to be allowed, a clerk, at \$1,800 per annum. Salaries are, of course, payable in greenbacks.

Sec. 2. That the President may set apart not exceeding four tracts of land in the State, for Indian reservations, to be located as far from white settlements as practicable. At least one of these reservations must be in the northern district; and any improvements already made by white men on the lands selected for reservations are to be purchased at a fair valuation. Said tracts may or may not include any of the present reservations.

Sec. 3. That any of the present reservations which shall not be retained under this Act shall, by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, be surveyed into lots or parcels of suitable size, and far as practicable in conformity to the surveys of the public lands, which lots shall be appraised by disinterested persons, and after due advertisement offered for sale at public outcry, and thence afterward shall be held subject to sale at private entry. But no lot can be sold for less than the appraised value, nor less than \$1 25 per acre. The sale must be conducted by the Register and Receiver of the Land Office in the district, in accordance with instructions of the Department regulating the sale of public lands.

Sec. 4. That the President may appoint, subject to confirmation by the Senate, one Indian Agent for each reservation, who shall reside upon it, and perform all the duties required by law of such agents. These agents hold office four years unless sooner removed, and are to be paid \$1,800 per annum.

Sec. 5. That if in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior the welfare of the Indians requires it, there may be appointed for each reservation one physician, one blacksmith, one assistant blacksmith, one farmer, and one carpenter, whose compensation shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, not exceeding \$50 per month.

Sec. 6. That hereafter Indian reservations and other lands shall be surveyed, when necessary, under the direction and control of the General Land Office, like other public lands.

Sec. 7. That all Indian Agents shall reside at their agencies, and shall in no case be permitted to visit Washington, unless ordered there by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In case of violation of this provision, the Commissioner is required to report the offender to the President for prompt removal.

Sec. 8. That all conflicting Acts are repealed, and all offices and employments connected with Indian Affairs in California, not provided for in this Act, are abolished.

**THE HUMBOLDT TIMES.**  
EUREKA, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1864. NO. 407.