

272 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

No. 39.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, Cal., June 4, 1864.

SIR: In a communication addressed you from this office on the 1st instant I informed you that there were about three hundred prisoners (Indians) held at Humboldt bay, and gave the reason why they could not be placed on any of the northern reservations. Since then two hundred more prisoners have been taken, and more will be brought in soon. It is of the utmost importance that these prisoners be removed at the earliest practicable day, and as several months must necessarily elapse before a reservation could be located by the department under the provisions of the recent act of Congress, would it not be well for the department to direct me to provide a temporary home for them somewhere south of San Francisco—somewhere near the military reservation about San Pedro, or on Catalina island? We could not well take them from off the coast now because of the expense of transportation.

The commanding officer either at San Pedro or Catalina would furnish a guard for them, but they would have to be fed through my department after I had taken charge of them. Another salutary effect which would be produced by this move would be to assure the people and the troops, who have long suffered by these Indians, that a step had at last been taken in the right direction to relieve them.

Your earnest consideration of this subject is requested, and if favorably considered, transportation and subsistence must be provided. As yet I have not a dollar, nor will I have until I receive it from Washington.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. W. P. DOLE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.