

The Hoopa Reservation.

TRINITY RIVER, June 5th, 1865.

EDITOR TRINITY JOURNAL:—Out off as we are from the world and the balance of mankind, we seldom trouble the newspapers with communications, but circumstances which have lately transpired compel us to come to the resolution of trying it for the purpose, if possible, of gaining some information in regard to the laws and usages of Indian Reservations. The first question is: Where is the eastern boundary line of the Hoopa Reservation? Second, has or has not the Reservation Agent the authority to give Indians passes to roam about the country twenty miles or more from the Reservation, with guns and other implements of warfare in their possession, and especially in a neighborhood which the same Indians burned, sacked and plundered only a year or so since? You will confer a favor on the settlers down here by answering these questions through your paper, as we are certain that you have a better opportunity of knowing than ourselves. There are only a few people here, and they entirely at the mercy of the Indians. We wish to know about these matters, that we may act promptly in case of extreme necessity.

This end of the county is at present almost depopulated, and a very good chance for it to remain so if different arrangements are not made concerning the hostile Indians. Only a few days since two of the Hoopa Valley Indians came here (at least twenty miles above the Reservation) and took our boat away, leaving us on the north side of the river, with very little provisions and no way of crossing to get more, and still we are afraid of violating some of the Reservation laws by interfering with or visiting punishment on the Indians, and all for the want of the information asked for. The country is so uninteresting down here, at present, and the few people so discouraged, that we have but little to communicate.

We subscribe ourselves your friends, etc.,

R. L. THOMAS, AND OTHERS.

We have taken some pains to obtain the information asked for, and herewith furnish it. One of the soldiers of Company C, "Mountaineers," lately disbanded, and who has just come from lower Trinity, informs us that he was at Thomas' place when the Indians took the boat away. He further says, if the settlers had known of their intention in time that the Indian depredators would never have reached the Reservation again. From another source we learn that the Indians

further says, if the settlers had known of their intention in time that the Indian depredators would never have reached the Reservation again. From another source we learn that the Indians simply took the boat for the purpose of crossing the river, having done which they moored it safely six miles below. Of course it left the settlers, who were "short of provisions," in a perplexing fix, but whether it would be considered an "overt act" by the Hoopa authorities remains to be known.

In regard to the eastern boundary of the Reservation we have learned this much: That it is supposed by the settlers that the Reservation extends no further up the river than Campbell's ranch, which was not appraised by the Government agents. The Indians claim, however, that their hunting-grounds extend to the mouth of Willow Creek, some eighteen miles up the river. Thomas' place is some six or eight miles further up, so that it will be seen that they do not confine themselves to the bounds of the "Reservation" as they consider it.

In answer to the second query, we can only say that the Reservation regulations do not allow Indians to leave it at will. If the agent has power to issue passes to the red-skins to roam at will, prudence would dictate that Indians who have been the most mischievous should be kept under strict surveillance, in order to guard against further trouble. If a bad Indian is allowed to leave the boundaries of the Reservation, he may easily incite those not so disposed to mischief. Our candid belief is, that if Government has purchased the Hoopa Valley lands for Reservation purposes, pays men to guard and conduct it as such, and feeds and clothes the Indians there, they (the Indians) have no right or license to leave it. If, however, agents and supernumeraries are neglectful of their duties, (as they are accused), the Indian cannot be censured for overstepping his prescribed bounds.

We shall close by saying, on the best information, that if some twenty or thirty of the more mischievous Indians (including "Big Jim," "Ceonaltin John" and "Handsome Billy"), could be disposed of, the trouble would be virtually at an end. "Big Jim" was the leader in all the depredations committed on Trinity river, and we wonder not that it is distasteful to settlers who have lost their all at his hands to find him roaming at large with a "pass" from the Reservation agent. If twenty-five well-armed miners will locate on lower Trinity and make it their business to shoot down every Indian showing himself outside the boundaries of the Reservation, depredations will soon be at an end. And if a Government agent or officer interferes outside the Reservation, treat him in like manner.

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We are marching home at last.