

No. 102.

KLAMATH RESERVATION, *July 15, 1856.*

SIR: In accordance with your instructions of June 16th, I report on the number, character, condition, and mode of living, &c., of the Indians in this vicinity.

When this reservation was first located, there were living upon it about 2,000 Indians—men, women, and children. Since that time there have been 500 Indians gathered in, which make the number now living within the bounds of this reserve about 2,500. So far as I am able to judge, from the short time I have been here, they are peaceably disposed, and willing to obey the agent over them.

That portion of them who have always had their homes here subsist themselves upon fish, game, acorns, roots, &c. The 500 recently removed on to the reserve, were brought from the country adjacent to the Oregon line, and were more or less involved in the war which has existed between the whites and Indians in southern Oregon for some months past. They came here destitute, and have to be subsisted almost entirely at government expense. It will be necessary to furnish them food, more or less, for some time to come.

On this river, above the reserve, within this country, there are about 1,500 Indians. They subsist upon fish, game, and the natural products of the earth; some few of them work for the white settlers.

On the Trinity river, which is a tributary of this, some ten miles above the reserve, there are from 1,000 to 1,200 Indians. Their mode of living is much the same as that of those living on the Klamath. South of this, within a distance of 60 miles, living on the coast and the various small streams, are some small tribes or scattering villages, probably not more than 500 or 600 in all. They are not so well off as those of the interior, from the fact that they are few in number, and the character of the country not so favorable for their support.

The Indians about Humboldt bay, I am credibly informed, are in a poor condition; they appear to be altogether a different race from those in the vicinity of the Klamath; their country is mostly occupied by white settlers, and they are constantly subject to ill treatment;

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they have expressed their willingness to be removed, but having ever feared, these Indians prefer some other point. I would suggest that Mendocino reserve will be more appropriate for them.

Of the Indians of Scott river, in Siskiyou county, I am unable to report at present, but will do so at an early day.

The Indians outside the reservation should be gathered in gradually, as preparations can be made to receive them. To do this, a military force of at least two full companies should be here to assist the agent and to prevent all idea of resistance.

The Indians insist, and very properly so, in my opinion, that they should be paid for lands before they are called upon to leave their old homes. A small appropriation by Congress for this purpose will do much toward the easy management of the Indians and amelioration of their condition. Why our government should not extinguish the Indian title to land in this State, as well as in all other portions of the United States and Territories, I am unable to find any good reason, so far as doing justice to the Indians is concerned.

The Indians of whom I have spoken are all at peace with the whites at present, and will probably remain so until some outrage is committed upon them by evil disposed whites, which it is impossible to prevent so long as they remain outside of the reservation.

I have the honor to remain, yours respectfully,

JAS. A. PATTERSON,

*Indian Agent.*

Hon. T. J. HENLEY,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, San Francisco, Cal.*

P. S. I intend to remove to the reservation, in the course of fifteen or twenty days, about forty Indians from Smith's river—the remnant of the Talawa tribe that Mr. Whipple moved last spring.

J. A. P.