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No. 56.

OFFICE INDIAN SUPERINTENDENT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,  
*Yuba City, July 15, 1861.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that my bond was duly executed, and I took the oath of office, according to your instructions, May 27, 1861. June 1st I set out in person to present my bond to my predecessor. Failing to find him at his office in Red Bluff, I hastened to the Nome Lackee reservation, where I learned from the person in charge that he had started on a tour of the reservations in the northern part of the district. I immediately set forward in pursuit of him, and visited all the reservations, travelling more than a thousand miles, but failed to find him. Returning to my office in *Yuba City*, I found a letter from Mr. Dribelbis, informing me that he was in San Francisco, waiting for my arrival, where I at length found him, on the 12th instant. This much it appears necessary to state in explanation of the tardiness of my report, which would otherwise have been forwarded at an earlier date.

None of the government property has as yet been formally transferred to me *by my predecessor*; but I condense the results of the observations made and the information gleaned during my recent tour.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 757

NOME LACKEE RESERVATION.

At this reservation there is no land enclosed or under cultivation, the buildings appear neglected, the floors of some of them having been torn up and carried away. A portion of the land formerly embraced within the boundary of the reservation, on which the reservation mill is located, has been taken possession of by parties who claim to have acted, as I understand, under the sanction of Colonel Henley, who was superintendent at the time. They have since laid school warrants on the land and converted to their own use the buildings, lumber, &c. I am informed that the parties holding the lands thus segregated from the reservation seized upon the teams and farming implements belonging to the government, which they still retain, and refuse to surrender. They have also succeeded, under a law of this State, in getting a considerable number of the most able-bodied Indians indentured to them for terms of ten or fifteen years. (Enclosed please find a list of the parties implicated and the names of the Indians retained in their service, and also the judge before whom the transaction was consummated.) The few teams are old, and the wagons remaining are entirely expended, and not one implement is left, except a dilapidated threshing machine, for which I received to Mr. Geiger about the 10th of June.

The Nome Lackee is valuable for small grain, but little worth for vegetables. The location is not desirable, being surrounded by white settlements, and exposed to all the influences which result from the contact of the two races. There is no fencing timber within twelve miles, and no fishery. The entire reservation is at present overrun with the stock of the white settlers. To carry on the reservation with efficiency, an appropriation of at least \$20,000 for fencing, teams, and implements, will be indispensable.

The Indians, which formerly numbered from two to three thousand, being left destitute of food and clothing, have mostly scattered to their former homes and retreats, where, from their wider distribution, food is more easily procured. The number at present on the reservations does not exceed two hundred.

I beg to suggest that this reservation should be resurveyed, according to the proclamation by which it was originally set apart; and if it can be done without any infraction of law, (as it certainly can be without any violence to justice,) that it be set back to its original boundaries.

KLAMATH RESERVATION.

This reservation is well located, and the improvements are suitable and of considerable value. There is an abundance of excellent timber for fencing and all other purposes, and at the mouth of the Klamath river there is a salmon fishery of great value to the Indians. The number of Indians here is not far from eighteen hundred.

The lands in cultivation amount to some three hundred acres, on which are growing wheat, barley, oats, corn, pease, potatoes, carrots, and beans. Six hundred acres more could easily be brought into cultivation.

The buildings are in tolerable condition, and of sufficient capacity for present demands.

The teams are old, and the farming implements are so worn as to be nearly useless. An expenditure of \$2,500 is imperatively needed for teams and utensils alone.

I suggest, as this reservation has never been surveyed, that it should be so laid out as to embrace the island and fishery at the mouth of the Klamath, and extend a mile in width each side of the river, to a point one mile above Wakel, and half a mile in width each side of the river, from that point to the mouth of Trinity river.

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The troops having been withdrawn from Wakel station, I suggest the buildings and lands occupied and cultivated by them should be turned over to the uses of the reservation, as this post is located on the most valuable portion of the farming land.

### MENDOCINO RESERVATION.

This location was wisely chosen at the time, but permission was given to certain parties by the superintendent to erect a saw-mill at the mouth of the No-Yo river, near the southern boundary. The result has proved deeply injurious to the Indians in two ways: in the first place, it has destroyed their valuable fishery at the mouth of the No-Yo; and in the second place, it brought in a large number of white men, whose influence is anything but improving to the morals of the Indians. A considerable portion of the enclosed land lies so exposed to the cold coast winds as to be comparatively unproductive.

From three to four hundred acres of land are cultivated the present season, and there are tolerable crops of wheat, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, carrots, and peas.

The teams here, as elsewhere, are too old for effective service, and the farming implements are virtually worn out. An appropriation of \$2,500 is necessary at this point also.

The buildings are pretty well kept. The troops at this point are worse than useless, and I suggest that it would be wise to remove them, and turn over the buildings which they now occupy to the uses of the reservation.

The number of Indians here at present is about one thousand; as is true, as in other reservations, they are nearly destitute of clothing.

### ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,

is situated about sixty miles in a northerly direction from Mendocino. It is walled in with high mountains, and contains about nineteen thousand acres of well-watered land, two-thirds of which will yield a rich reward to the cultivator. The supply of timber is ample for all purposes and all time.

The whole of this beautiful valley has been surveyed for an Indian reservation. Previously, as is alleged, permission to persons to settle on certain portions of the land was given by Colonel Henley. There are at this time from twenty to twenty-five farms, some of which contain over a thousand acres, enclosed and cultivated mainly by Indian labor. These farms are occupied by perhaps fifty white men and three white women, and the improvements are worth some fifty thousand dollars. There are also a number of persons engaged in surveying some moist lands within the valley, with a view to taking them up as "swamp and overflowed lands." I wish instructions as to the course to be pursued with such persons.

The stock of the whites overrun the valley. If a few cattle or sheep are missing, (which easily happens with such herdings as they have,) the Indians are accused of stealing, as a matter of course, and are treated with violence. A very large majority of the whites are unmarried men, who constantly excite the Indians to jealousy and revenge by taking their squaws from them. In a word, it will be impossible to govern and inform the Indians unless these white inhabitants can be altogether removed from the valley.

The present settlers express a willingness to remove, on condition that the government will pay them for their improvements. I suggest the expediency of a commission to appraise their improvements, and that the government purchase them at a fair valuation, especially as the improvements are eminently useful. A grist mill is much needed in the valley.

The valley, as I have stated, is surrounded by mountains. Enclosed please find a rough draft or plat, which will help you to a definite idea of its situation.

I suggest, as of the first importance, that, by a *special act of Congress*, the entire valley and the adjacent wilderness should be set apart exclusively for the use of the Indians, for tillage and hunting grounds, so that the reservation shall be bounded by the main ridge of mountains on the northeast, and by a line running, at all points, half a mile north of the north branch of Eel river, till the two lines meet below the junction of the two streams, comprising a boundary not exceeding twenty-five miles square.

I also suggest that the troops be withdrawn from the Round Valley reservation, and from all the other reservations, *and that the working force on this and the other reservations be so increased as to become a self-protecting force, furnished with arms.*

The salary of laborers should be so increased as to enable the superintendent to employ men with *small families*, and whose wives would engage to teach the squaws useful and improving lessons, whose influence would be every way better than that of single men. It is my deliberate opinion that in this way the government would reduce its expenses, while it would greatly enhance the efficiency of the Indian department on the coast.

I beg your particular attention to the practicability and expediency of removing the Indians from *Nome Lackee* and *Mendocino* to Round Valley. If the preceding suggestions can be carried out, it will leave enough for them all, and for all the wild Indians that can be gathered in this beautiful and secluded valley, where they would in a good degree be removed from those pernicious influences which have so long embarrassed the Indian work. The value of the land and improvements on the two reservations named would, if sold, exceed the amount necessary to purchase the improvements of the white settlers in Round Valley, and to restock the two reservations which would remain.

The Indians who remain on the reservations appear to labor cheerfully, with almost no want but food, clothing, and tobacco; they are easily controlled, and on a removal from associations with vicious white men they are capable of rapid and permanent improvement.

I suggest the necessity of employing on each of the reservations a blacksmith and a physician. The smith should be capable of repairing the wood-work of wagons, ploughs, and the like. These additions to the force are indispensable, but they cannot be employed for fifty dollars per month. I wish permission to engage competent persons at a somewhat higher salary, and such as have small families. Men can be employed as laborers at fifty dollars per month; but the men needed for the work will require seventy-five dollars. With this reasonable increase of salary I should be able to secure men of good character and experience, whose wives would instruct the girls and women, not only in useful arts, as making their own clothing, &c., but also teach the children in the rudimentary branches of education. I greatly desire permission to experiment at least in this direction.

In the frontier portions of Humboldt and Mendocino counties a band of desperate men have carried on a system of kidnapping for two years past: Indian children were seized and carried into the lower counties and sold into virtual slavery. These crimes against humanity so excited the Indians that they began to retaliate by killing the cattle of the whites. At once an order was issued to chastise the guilty. Under this indefinite order, a company of United States troops, attended by a considerable volunteer force, has been pursuing the poor creatures from one retreat to another. The kidnappers follow at the heels of the soldiers to seize the children when their parents are murdered and sell them to the best advantage. During my recent visit to Round Valley a hundred of the fugitive Indians came voluntarily into the reservation for protection. A large number could be induced to come in if I had means at my disposal to prosecute the work.

It is my settled conviction that an appropriation of one hundred and fifty

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thousand dollars per annum for one year would place the reservations on a self-sustaining basis in every respect, except the salaries of officers: provided the surplus products were allowed to be exchanged for clothing, farming implements, &c. A general complaining exists on the part of employes, who are now and some who have been on the reservations for two years past, and also some who have filled requisitions for the necessary supplies from time to time, as against the government for the non-payment of wages and goods. It is desirable that such claims should be adjusted and paid as early as possible. Enclosed please find a letter to me from one of the agents at Klamath reservation, desiring that I should place this matter before you.

Except a sufficiency of money is placed at the disposal of the superintending agent to clothe the Indians, furnish them with tools and teams, thereby encouraging them to enlarge their farms and cultivate them, and also to bring back the fugitives now wandering off in the vicinity of their old homes, as well as those who are now being hunted down like wild beasts and killed, it will be impossible to succeed in this noble cause of humanity, which has been well commenced, but very badly managed by some of my predecessors. A great number of wild cattle, which were purchased for the use of the Indian reservations several years ago, remain yet in the possession of the ex-superintendent, Colonel T. J. Henley. The milch cows, horses, mules, and hogs, the number and quality of each, I must defer until my next report.

There is a sufficiency of wheat, corn, rye, oats, barley, potatoes, pease, beans, beef, and pork, on the different reservations (except Nome Lackee) to feed the Indians until the new crop is harvested. Their blankets and clothes, however, are worn out, and unless money is provided the creatures must suffer or leave the reservations, to be hunted down and killed by the whites or kidnapped and brought into slavery.

I beg to call particular attention to the laws of this State providing for "indenturing Indians," and the sad effects produced by kidnapping under cover of such laws, and I suggest that Congress should in due time provide a remedy.

In conclusion, allow me again to urge the propriety of an ample appropriation at once to enable the superintendent to carry out the purposes herein suggested, which would reduce the number of reservations, remove the Indians entirely from contact with the white race, which I find is indispensable especially to the health of the Indians, (many of whom are seriously diseased by said contact,) increase the laboring force, and their wages to seventy-five dollars per month, thereby reducing the expenses, by the removal of troops and transfer of their stations to the use of the reservation.

To recapitulate the estimated sum that is indispensable for this purpose, I will say:

For the purpose of restocking three reservations with additional teams, ploughs, and other necessary farming tools, say.....	\$7,500
For the purchase of the settlers' farms in Round Valley, and expenses of a survey of the proposed enlargement.....	55,000
For the removal of Indians from Nome Lackee, and wild Indians in the mountains, say 4,000 souls.....	.....
For clothing, blankets, fish nets, &c., for 8,000 Indians for one year, at the rate of \$5 each.....	40,000
For salaries of officers and employes, consisting of a superintending agent.....	3,000
Three supervisors:.....	5,400
Fifteen laborers, at \$75 each per month.....	13,500

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Three blacksmiths and wagon and plough makers, at \$75 each per month .....	\$2,700
Three physicians, at \$75 each per month.....	2,700
Total .....	<u>155,400</u>

It will be seen by making this change it will not increase but diminish the aggregate number of employes, especially if reduced to only the Klamath and Round Valley reservations; and then the removal of all the troops, (which, in my candid opinion, would only be necessary as against the whites trespassing upon the reservations, and mixing with the whites,) thereby greatly reducing the aggregate amount of expenses annually incurred on account of Indians, would also materially improve the condition of that unfortunate race, and make the reservations a desirable and happy home, which has hitherto been so repulsive to their thoughts that death itself would to many of them be preferable.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

GEO. M. HANSON,  
*Superintending Agent Indian Affairs,  
Northern District of California.*

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*