
No. 22.

HOOPA VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION,
California, July 20, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs at this agency during the year ending June 30, 1868. Assuming charge October 26, 1867, I found the Indians in a very unsettled condition, two of the principal tribes being at war with each other, some six Indians having been killed during the summer. The trouble between them originated from the efforts of one party to catch Frank, the murderer of the late agent, R. L. Stockton, his friends belonging to the other tribe. Owing to this warfare most of the Indians had become considerably demoralized.

Frank was killed shortly after I assumed charge, by a party of Indians sent in pursuit of him by me, it being found impossible to capture him alive. Successful efforts were made to stop the fighting, no more taking place, and in April last an amicable settlement was effected between the belligerents, each paying for those killed, according to the Indian custom. There is still a difficulty of long standing existing between one of these same tribes and another one on the reservation, that is likely to cause

trouble between them before long, unless a settlement can be brought about, as about six weeks ago the leader of one was waylaid and killed a few miles from the reservation by a band of Indians not belonging on the reservation, supposed to have been hired by the other party to do the deed. This occurred just at the commencement of the harvest season, and fears were entertained that fighting would occur at once, and that the crops might be lost in consequence; great efforts were made to prevent it, with success thus far, but I fear they cannot be restrained much longer, though no efforts will be spared to continue peace and bring the murderers to punishment. The Indians seem very friendly to the whites, and with the exception stated, the utmost quiet prevails among those on the reservation, and but little trouble is experienced in obtaining all the labor needed to work the reservation. Owing to the somewhat deranged state of things arising from the sudden and violent death of the late agent, and the unusually dry season, not near as much as usual was raised in the summer of 1867. In consequence, only small rations, principally flour, could be issued, but by prudent and careful management it was made to answer, and the Indians, understanding the matter, have been satisfied with what could be allowed them.

This reservation was established some four years ago, at which time the improvements by the settlers thereon were purchased. At that time most of the houses, fences, and tools were old, and many in bad repair, and their constant use since by the Indians has resulted in their almost entire destruction, very few proper repairs having been made. Much mechanical labor is imperatively necessary at the present time to provide paper, houses, sheds, and farming implements for the successful working of the reservation. I have been compelled to employ an extra carpenter most of the time, or the loss to the government from the want of farming implements, such as rollers, reapers, wagons, threshers, &c., would have amounted to thousands of dollars. I am happy to state that the crops are larger the present season than ever before raised on the reservation, and that there will be an abundance for the Indians and seed for the ensuing year. Last year all the seed used on the reservation had to be purchased. There are now belonging to the reservation about 125 head of cattle and 250 head of swine, the increase of which in another year will probably supply the reservation with all the fresh and salt meat necessary for the subsistence of the working Indians. The sanitary condition of the Indians during the year has been good. No schools have been in existence on the reservation since I have been here; could one or more be established and well maintained, with a proper fostering care of the reservation by the government, after habits of civilization were formed, it would undoubtedly be of great benefit to the Indians and their future management. This reservation is located on the Trinity river, eight miles above its junction with the Klamath. About 700 Indians are permanently located upon it. From the junction of the Trinity with the Klamath to the mouth of the latter, about 50 miles, there are estimated to be from 2,000 to 3,000 Indians. The Indians of this section are generally superior to most of the California Indians; they are well formed, of good average size, inclined to be warlike, but disposed to be friendly to the whites. From the mountainous and densely timbered character of the surrounding country for a distance of about 40 miles, it would be almost impossible to remove them to any other locality, and then only by a great expense, endangering the peace of this section while it was being done; hence I believe the establishment of this reservation was right and its location good, but to make it answer the purpose of civilizing and

594 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

keeping the Indians quiet, it is requisite that sufficient means should be furnished to enable it to be successfully carried on.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. PRATT,

Indian Agent, Hoopa Valley Reservation, California.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,

Commissioner Indian Affairs.
