

No. 105.

OFFICE OF THE MENDOCINO INDIAN RESERVATION,
July 25, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration a report of the number and condition of the Indians in the vicinity of this reservation. In this report I shall divide them into two classes, viz: the Christian Indians, (as they call themselves,) and the wild Indians. The first of these will be the Kyanamara Indians, who inhabit the section of country between the cañon of Russian river and its mouth; they number about four hundred and seventy-three, all told, men, women, and children. Most of the able-bodied men of this tribe work for the farmers on Russian river, and about Bodega, and keep themselves very well clothed, and were it not for evil-disposed persons furnishing them liquors, and introducing amongst them various diseases, their condition would be as good as the most of Indians. But these evils are carried to such an extent, that I should recommend their removal to the reserve as soon as practicable; as most of the men know how to work, they can soon be made to support themselves.

We next come to the Wapo Indians. These are a remnant of a tribe that once inhabited the country about the Geisers. They number, all told, one hundred and eighty-eight; their condition is the same as the Kyanamaras.

The Bokiah and Boyo Indians are now on the reservation; they number two hundred and fifty, all told.

The Ukiah Indians number about seventeen hundred, all told; their condition is the same as the Kyanamaras and Wapos.

The Salan Pomas are a tribe of Indians inhabiting a valley called Potter's valley—the name of the man who first settled in their country. They are very well provided for as they are. He (Potter) has ploughed about forty acres of land for them, which they have planted in corn, watermelons, &c.; they live on Mr. Potter's rancho, and disturb no one at present. Their condition cannot be bettered much. Their number is about two hundred and fifty.

Of the wild Indians but little is as yet known; those that inhabit the section of country in the vicinity of Long valley are estimated at about seven thousand; but no accurate statement as to their numbers can yet be given. They are very quiet, living on grass-seed, roots, &c., and if left to themselves, will trouble no one. Those in the vicinity of Round valley I estimated, on my last visit to that place, at three thousand; their mode of living is about the same as those of Long valley, and as a station has been located in the valley they inhabit, there will be no difficulty with them.

It was a very fortunate thing to locate a preparatory farm at that point, as in a short time settlers would have gone there, and there would, as a matter of course, have been difficulties with the Indians.

Of the Indians in the vicinity of Cape Mendocino but little is known. They are very wild; their number is estimated at about three thousand. They live chiefly on grass-seeds and fish that they obtain along the coast. The country that they inhabit will probably not be

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

809

settled by white people for a number of years, if ever, and for that reason the department will have very little trouble with them, as they are disposed to be very quiet. Since I have had charge of this reserve, my duties at the station have kept me so confined that I have made but little acquaintance with the Indians and country in the vicinity of Cape Mendocino, consequently, I base my report on the information gained from persons that have travelled through that part of the country. I do not, however, think that it would be the policy of the department to interfere with them at the present time, as there are three thousand of the Christian Indians, (as they call themselves,) whom it is almost necessary to remove, and by removing them first, the wild Indians will come in of their own accord.

At the close of quarter ending June 30, 1856, there were on this reservation about three hundred and seventy-five Indians; of this number about one hundred are able-bodied men, the balance are old men, women, and children.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

H. L. FORD,
Sub-agent.

THOMAS J. HENLEY, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.