
No. 103.

NOME LACKE RESERVATION,
July 31, 1856.

SIR: In accordance with your instructions of the 18th June, requiring me to make a yearly report, in addition to my quarterly reports, of the character, condition, &c., of the Indians under my charge, I respectfully submit the following:

I arrived at and took charge of this reserve on the 16th January, 1856; a large crop of grain was put in during the winter, consisting of about eight hundred acres of wheat, forty acres of barley, and a large lot of vegetables; which, I am happy to say, have all yielded an abundant harvest. The Indians are quiet, contented, and happy; they work cheerfully and well in all branches of labor, particularly agricultural; they are quick to acquire a knowledge of it; many are excellent hands with the cradles, sickles, &c., and have, with the aid of a few white persons as overseers and directors, harvested all the

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wheat (about 16,000 bushels) and other crops, and have cut and put up about two hundred and fifty tons of hay of the best quality.

The reserve will now be able to produce sufficient breadstuffs for about five thousand Indians. The number is now increasing daily, as they are beginning to understand the liberal policy of the government toward them.

There are now on this reserve about two thousand Indians of four different tribes; the Nome-Lackes, Nome-Cults, Nir-Mucks, and Uye-Lackes; of these, the first named is the most numerous. None of them have any head or principal chief, except the Nome-Cults; they have one who appears to exercise a very great influence over them. The several tribes are located in different parts of the reserve to prevent any disturbances among them, arising out of the enmity which has always existed among various tribes in this State.

There is no disease of any importance among those who have remained any considerable time on the reserve; but most of the newcomers are diseased, miserable, and wretched, and would, without assistance from government, perish from the continued effects of disease and famine. Within the past ten days, about ninety Uye-Lackes have been brought in; almost every one of them is afflicted; but in a few months, with proper care and medical aid, will be mostly cured. Until recently, there was a fifth tribe here, (the Nevadas,) but they have been removed to the Nome-Cult valley, west of this reserve, and are now located there, under the supervision of Mr. S. P. Storms, who was formerly their overseer here. As that valley is some distance from here, difficult of access, and but recently established, it is impossible for me, at this time, to say anything of its prospects of utility, success, &c., I shall therefore reserve it for a future report.

I intend this fall to put up a building one hundred feet square, capable of being used for dwellings, offices, and store-houses, and arranged so as to be a fortification in case of any difficulty arising among the Indians. This is deemed necessary from the fact, that there are now on the reserve four different tribes, and as the intentions of government becomes better known outside, others will come or be brought in; and it is only considered a prudent caution to be at all times prepared for any outbreak among them, arising from their natural enmity, to which I have already alluded as existing among them. For those now here, this course would not be deemed absolutely necessary, as no difficulties of any kind have taken place among them since I have been in charge of the reservation. The Indians are now engaged in making the adobes for the building.

Of the Indians residing in this neighborhood, a large number are on the ranches or farms of private individuals, who are using them as working hands, and who seem to have adopted the principle that they (the Indians) belong to them as much as an African slave does to his master, and that they have the right to control them entirely. Many of these Indians have left their places and come to the reservation, and have been followed and demanded by the persons claiming them as private property. This system of slavery is, in my opinion, far more objectionable than that which exists in any other country, as the Indians claim to be the rightful owners of the soil. I cannot, there-

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fore, too strongly recommend that some course be adopted by which it may be promptly broken up, and the Indians removed to the reservation.

I did at one time question whether the reservation system could be successfully carried out, but I am now convinced that no other policy would answer as well in this country. The success and flourishing condition of this reserve have proved that the Indians, in a short time, will be able to abundantly grow the necessary provisions for their support, and give them a home where they can live in peace and contentment, and where they will be removed from those vices and evils that are always entailed upon them when brought in contact with the whites, for they first learn all their vices, and pay but little attention to their good qualities.

E. A. STEVENSON,
Agent for the Indians in California.

HON. THOMAS J. HENLEY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.
