

Indian Reservations -- What are They Good For?

The miserable management of Indian affairs on this coast affords a fine opportunity for unbiased minds to contemplate the beauties of the modern system of Federal appointments. If there is a position in the gift of the Government where discriminating judgment should predominate over political huckstering and trembling obsequiousness to the "powers that be," it is that of an Indian Agent. The truth is that no man who has given his attention to politics and made that his trade can be a suitable man to take charge of Indians. The two positions are incompatible, and the man who is qualified for one, is naturally, by the course of life he must have pursued, disqualified for the other. The Indian Department in California, like the Custom House, has been used as a political lever, and the money that has been squandered on Reservations on this coast has been thrown away. Neither, in our estimation, has any great political good been accomplished. We do not suppose that anything we may say will remedy the evil just now, but we would remind our Superintendent of Indian Affairs that the people of this county will remember, with a keen sensibility, the manner in which matters on the Reservation in this section have been conducted. Not content with seizing a valuable portion of our county, paying no regard to remonstrances to the contrary, we are afflicted with political favorites of the Department, as Agents, whose limited knowledge of our Indians so totally incapacitates them for the service they are sent here to perform, that they can neither have the confidence of the Indians, nor a co-operation of the citizens. And thus, in a measure, are our lives and property staked against the favor of political demagogues.

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It is our intention in this article, as in a former one, to show that we are greatly in want of the aid which Government designs to furnish us by the establishment of these Reservations, at the same time to point out the miserable blunders which are made by the head of the Indian Department in this State, in the selection of Agents. Upon their appointments depends the success or failure of the enterprise. The management of the Mendocino Reservation is a clear sample of the folly which follows improper appointments to such positions. A portion of that "institution" is located in our county, and so far as deriving any benefit from its application to protecting Indians is concerned, it might as well be rooted up by hedge-hogs, and made a play ground for chip-munks. The Agent, a Mr. Cunningham, may be a very good man, but he is either ignorant of his duty, or has not the means at hand to perform it. We have no acquaintance with the gentleman, and are not prepared to speak advisedly of his merits. We know, however, that he has never visited the Indians in this section, and consequently, can have no knowledge of their condition or wants.

Now, we are well convinced that the coast Indians would willingly go on the Reservation if they could have the proper assurance of protection and subsistence. In former times it has been the policy of our Government either to drive west, or exterminate Indian tribes, but with our Indians a different course must be pursued; for, to drive them farther west would be impossible, and extermination would stand under the head of "unfinished business," to the end of the present generation. If, then, the Reservation is to be continued at the expense of Government, let some man be appointed as sub-Agent who has a common interest in our welfare, and with whom the Indians are acquainted

be continued at the expense of Government; let some man be appointed as sub-Agent who has a common interest in our welfare, and with whom the Indians are acquainted and entertain confidence in. Such an Agent would find no difficulty in removing the Indians, and he could have the hearty co-operation of citizens, in the discharge of his duties.

The idea of an Indian's reverence for the "home of his childhood," or the "graves of his forefathers," is all humbug. The Indian, like the "pale face," is best suited where his interests are most subserved. Where he finds most to eat, to be procured by the smallest amount of labor, is his best and happiest home.

The time has now arrived when something must be done with these coast Indians. Their means of subsistence varies from the mountain Diggers. They live principally upon fish and berries, many of them maintaining themselves by their labor, which they "swap" for potatoes, flour, &c. They are more indolent than the mountain Indians, and less hostile. But it is well known that they fraternize and sympathize with their race, no difference from what section. It is through them that ammunition and guns are procured and placed in the hands of the mountain Indians.

It is of the utmost importance then, that this class of Indians should be placed on the land provided for them, and it is equally important that the man who is to rule and govern them should know as much about "Indians" as politics.

We have been assured by persons who are presumed to know, that if these matters were represented to Col. Henley, that they would receive his immediate attention. -- Well, here they are, and we assure him that there is a general feeling in this county in favor of the measures which we have suggested, and that the sooner they are attended to by the appointment of a proper Agent, the sooner the outrages which we have been submitted to thus far will be forgotten.

THE HUMBOLDT TIMES

VOL. 4.

UNION, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1858.

THE HUMBOLDT TIMES.

AN IMPROVEMENT NEWSPAPER.

PRINTED BY EDWIN SUTHERLAND, MONDAY, JULY 31, 1858. No. 42, corner of the Plaza, San Francisco, Cal.

Subscription - In advance, for one year, \$5.00. For a month, \$1.00. For a less time, one dollar per month.

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NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

New York, June 12, 1858.

Dear Sirs: - I sent you a communication by last steamer, since the sailing of which nothing particularly remarkable has occurred.

The chief topic of public interest and discussion alluded to in my last, related to certain difficulties with the British government, upon which was predicated a pretty broad and strong opinion that we were about to be involved in a serious struggle with that power.

The latest intelligence, however, from the other side, set it very much at rest all apprehension on that score. The first impression upon our commerce in southern waters, that reached England, and was met with without the slightest surprise and disapproval.

It is the heart of the British government, which promptly took such action in the matter as was calculated to restore harmony between the two countries, and put an immediate stop to further business of the sort.

It is well we still probably have nothing better to tell of words. This little business in the steps which have been taken by our government, to enlarge and strengthen its means of national defense, by authorizing the immediate conscription of several additional vessels of war, and the completion of others under way, - ameliorating the condition of our harbor fortifications, and naval depots, - and having other important measures to the same end.

It is all this, giving work to a large number of our mechanics and laborers.

The present session of Congress, with all its conflicting interests, and expenditures, good and bad, will expire next Monday, unless a further extension of the term is decided upon in the meantime, which is not the

case of such offenses, yet so rare is the administration of justice, now-a-days in our criminal courts, that the acquittal of a person is generally looked upon as almost certain. Captain is on his third trial - the jury having disagreed - I believe on the former ones.

A week ago every one was complaining of the heat of the weather, and there is no immediate hope of its cooling down. I haven't energy enough to look at the thermometer; but I have no doubt it's very high, though early in the day. About the time the California steamer sails, the sun will be at the climax of his power, and the ground will be a furnace.

These are the means of artificial warmth, and a few days ago in anticipation that they would be of no further service during the season. This new freak of the elements does us for back as Friday last, when a violent rain storm set in, and continued without relaxation through the following day.

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formerly of San Francisco, preaches here this afternoon in one of our prominent churches. I forgot to mention, before that Concert had been convicted of the murder of police-man Anderson, and lately sentenced to five years imprisonment for brutally killing Mr. Simonson of this city. For several long while the "night and majesty of the law" in New York has been practically applied.

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sting year and a half, and the head of a family. The following interesting sketch, we copy from the New York Journal of Commerce. We don't see there are so many of that sort in the Empire City. The Journal says: "Some weeks ago, among the beggars who communicate with us in procession during the great tournament, toward whom we were all so much averted, so much indeed that we asked his story, and he gave it, briefly, in a few words, that seemed to be the result of a long and painful life. One of the beggars, however, went the next day, and reported to all its particulars, and stated that the boy had been a daily pensioner at this office. That these are the sort of cases in the city, one can hardly believe, but if he does indeed the public to think more of the money that lurks in the secret places of the city."

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