

No. 20.

SMITH RIVER INDIAN FARM,
California, July 31, 1868.

SIR: In compliance with the requirement of the Indian department I have the honor to submit my second annual report of affairs connected with the Smith River Indian agency.

According to a census recently taken I find that the decrease of the Indians here is somewhat greater than the increase. There seems to be a gradual diminishing of all the tribes of Indians in this section of the State, as great among those who have never lived upon a reservation as among those who have. The most plausible reason I can give for this is that they cannot stand civilization. The customs and habits of the white man being so entirely different from what they have heretofore been accustomed to, I have no doubt is the principal cause of this gradual falling off.

The social and moral condition of the Indians within my jurisdiction will compare favorably with any other tribes on the coast. Many of

them having lived with the whites during their early childhood, learned to talk our language very well, and acquired many useful and beneficial habits. Some of them are tolerable mechanics, and most of them are excellent farm hands. All the work on this farm is performed by the Indians under the supervision of the several employes. Since taking charge of this agency (18 months ago) I have had but little trouble in managing the Indians. I have endeavored to treat them kindly and impartially, in hopes thereby to gain their respect and confidence, and I am pleased to say that I have succeeded beyond my expectations.

We have under cultivation this year about 280 acres, viz:

	Acres.	Estimated yield.
Wheat.....	85	1,500 bushels.
Oats.....	60	5,000 bushels.
Timothy hay.....	40	80 tons.
Potatoes.....	45	5,000 bushels.
Peas.....	30	750 bushels.
Vegetables.....	20	20 tons.

All of which at the present time is looking well, and unless some unforeseen contingency should destroy them, there will be an ample supply to meet the wants of the Indians during the coming year.

In most of my monthly reports to the honorable Commissioner, I have had occasion to state that the Indians under my charge were peaceable and well disposed. I have the satisfaction of being able to say that the same feeling exists among them at this time, and in no single instance have they manifested or shown any feeling of a revengeful or malicious character towards any of the employes or other whites with whom they have had to do. During the past year they have been well provided with food and clothing and have been as comfortable as it is possible to make them. All of them, both male and female, old and young, have a natural propensity for gambling, and in many instances gamble off their blankets and clothing even to destitution. I have tried every way that I could conceive of to put a stop to it, but as yet I have only partially succeeded.

On the 4th of the present month I made it a point to have them look as well and have as good a time as my limited means would permit. Many of those belonging to the agency, in connection with neighboring tribes, were fixed up in holiday attire, (Indian style,) and turned out 300 strong to celebrate the anniversary of our country's birth. A happier set of beings I never saw; they manifested as much zeal and patriotism in the exercises of the day as any American citizen possibly could. My object in doing this was to make them understand that the government was their friend, and that so long as they continued friendly and peaceable they would be well cared for.

In my last annual report I had occasion to call your attention to the fact that all the land used for Indian purposes at this agency was leased from settlers, and that the Indians manifested considerable dissatisfaction in not being able to call the land their own. The same feeling exists at this time; there is scarcely a day but what I am asked the question, "when is the government going to buy the valley?" I am fully convinced that the purchase of this valley, or a portion of it, for the exclusive use and benefit of the Indians, would exert a very beneficial influence over them.

There are many improvements that could and ought to be made here in order to carry on this branch of the department properly; but from the

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fact that all the land is leased, and no certainty as to how long the agency will be continued, I have deemed it inadvisable to make any more improvements other than those that actual necessity required.

After an experience of two seasons' farming on this farm, I find that it will be necessary in the future to sow our wheat and oats in the fall, for the reason that by sowing in the fall the grain will be ready to harvest at least a month earlier and before there is any likelihood of rain; and then again it will save five or six weeks' work in the spring. Heretofore all the work *had* to be done in the spring, from the fact that the land was rented by the year from January 1 to December 31, and having so much work to do in a given time, some of the crops have failed because they could not be got in the ground in season. I would most respectfully recommend that in the future the land be leased for several years at a time.

All of the stock on the farm are in fine condition and gradually increasing. For a list of the number and kind, see statistical return of farming, &c., herewith transmitted. I have a good supply of farming implements on hand—enough, with one or two exceptions, to carry on the farm properly for another year.

Before closing my report, it is due from me to say that the several employés at this agency have been faithful and efficient in the discharge of their duties. Much of the successful working of the farm is owing to their example, energy, and kind treatment of the Indians.

In concluding this report permit me to express, in behalf of the Indians at this agency, the *earnest hope* that the land now occupied by them will at some early day be purchased by the government for their future permanent home.

Hoping that my official acts for the past year have met your approbation, and that this report may prove satisfactory, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY ORMAN, JR.,
Indian Agent Smith River Farm.

Hon. B. C. WHITING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.