

No. 163.

NOME JACKEE INDIAN RESERVATION,
August, 1857.

SIR: Since my arrival at this place, succeeding Colonel Stevenson, nothing of unusual importance has transpired. Every department of business has moved on regularly, nothing occurring to mar the general good order and the prosperous condition of affairs reported by my predecessor.

The agricultural operations on the reservation this year have been eminently successful, and, considering the unusually dry season, the products have been most abundant. There have been under cultivation about six hundred acres of land, from which we have an estimated return of ten thousand bushels of wheat, three hundred bushels of corn: the yield of barley being very light—in fact, not of sufficient value to harvest. There have been cut and cared for about two hundred and fifty tons of hay. Vegetables of all kinds were raised in abundance, except potatoes, and it is now settled that the land in this section of country will not produce them. The wheat has all been threshed and housed, and is sufficient to feed a much larger number of Indians than can be collected on the reservation this year.

From the record of labor kept on the reservation, it appears that there have been an average of forty Indians at work per day during the year, except in time of harvest, when the force was increased to from two to four hundred; during the period of threshing and housing the grain, there were about seventy-five at work daily. The Indians now work very willingly, and some of them are engaged in almost every department of labor. As a general thing, the Indians are contented with their location on the reservation, and express a desire to remain; there are, however, a few restless and discontented spirits among them, who occasionally strive to gain over the tribes to some

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plan by which they can return to their old haunts. Some have left the reservation who refuse to return, while others, who left for a while, found their condition much worsted, and voluntarily returned to the reservation. The whole number of Indians embraced within this reserve is two thousand five hundred. The only improvement in building is the erection of a new adobe granary at headquarters, and some sheds to protect the hay from the wet weather. It is the intention to erect some additional buildings for the use of the employés at Thom's Creek camp, as well as some houses for Indians at that and the Nevada camp.

There has been some sickness among the Indians this summer, especially with the Wye-lackees, who suffered much from not having the free use of running water, to which they were always accustomed, and consequently they have been removed to the Thom's Creek camp, where health is being fully restored to them. With this exception, and of the venereal complaints, always abounding among them, they are free from disease.

During the year about five hundred of the Yuba and Feather River tribes have been brought on to the reservation, and have, with the exception of a portion of the Yubas, been sent to the Nome Cult valley station. It has been impossible for me as yet to visit the Nome Cult station, but I learn from the reports of the overseer that everything is in a prosperous condition, the Indians contented and satisfied.

Mr. Storms informs me that he has already cut and prepared the timbers for such buildings in that valley as the necessities of the service may require.

The current expenses of the reservation have been reduced as far as practicable, and, with the exception of the additional outlay for beef during harvest, will probably be less than at any time heretofore.

I must repeat the recommendation of my predecessor, that some measures should be adopted to break up the Indian rancheros in this portion of the country, and the Indians be removed to the reserve.

The success that has thus far attended the reservation system, the immense good conferred upon the Indians, while at the same time protecting the persons and property of the whites from Indian depredations, establishes the wisdom of the government in adopting this method for the subsistence and care of the Indians.

There is now stationed at this place a detachment of the third artillery, United States troops, under command of Lieutenant Morgan.

Yours, &c.,

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Indian Agent.

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