

and astonishment of the Indians, the Yee-ok-a-wall tribe. The red-woods here run out, and are replaced by a kind of yellow fir, while the flats are studded with cotton-wood.

The country back of Point Gorda is of the same character as that last described.

Next comes the Matole river and the valley of the Matole, extending back about twenty-five miles. It consists of rich bottom and rolling land, capable of producing any kind of grain, as well as Indian corn, melons, &c. This fact I learned from an old acquaintance, whom I met back in the valley of the Matole. He had been living there alone for a year, and stated that no frost comes until after the first rain. The Matole river is, perhaps, the best fishing station on the coast, and the Indians catch a great many fish in baskets and nets.

*Cape Mendocino, the country of the Yeeith Indians.*—Instead of finding it a rocky, bleak, barren, and brushy mountain, we were agreeably surprised to discover it was the very opposite, being a beautiful, bald hill, covered with fine clover and other grasses, and decked with most gorgeous flowers.

We here planted our flag on the extreme western point of the United States, and gave three cheers for Uncle Sam.

Throughout this entire route there is a line of snowy hills, varying from ten to fifty miles from the coast.

Wherever we went we found the rocks along the shore covered with muscles.

The natives, generally speaking, appear to be fat, living comfortably on the products of the forests, the soil, and the water.

Whenever I planted seed, I explained fully to them their use, at which they seemed much pleased.

Within the stretch between the coast and the line of snow hills I have before mentioned, there are many rich and extensive valleys, having room sufficient for a large number of Indians. Should you desire, at some future period, any information concerning them, I shall be most happy to make the exploration and report.

Respectfully,

JAS. TOBIN.

No. 168.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

*Office Indian Affairs, August 11, 1857.*

Sir: With a view of effecting, if possible, the concentration of the Indian tribes of California within these reservations, I would suggest the policy of establishing a new reserve in the neighborhood of the present locality of the Cayesons, in the San Geronio pass, if the same should be found to be an eligible point, to be surveyed and set apart for the future home of all the Indians in the southern and southwestern portions of the State. The valley of the San Geronio pass,

probably combines more advantages in point of soil, water, climate, &c., than any other locality in southern California. The Cavesons who now reside there are represented as industrious and thriving Indians, having supported themselves comfortably by raising vegetables in small gardens of their own cultivation, with the addition of mesquite beans, which to a great extent abound in that valley.

As the Cavesons have managed, by a limited cultivation of the soil, to provide themselves with the ordinary comforts of life without the aid of the general government, it is presumed that their example would have a salutary influence upon the Indians who may be concentrated in their immediate vicinity, and induce them, by increased exertion and industry, at least to support themselves with the annual aid they will receive from the government. If you should coincide with these views, you will take the requisite steps to ascertain whether there would be any difficulty in the way of the proposed locality, in consequence of land claims or settlements of any character; and if so, you will procure from the respective claimants written statements of the amounts they would be willing to receive in full consideration of the same; but in soliciting these facts, it is expected that you will proceed with proper caution, so as not to excite the cupidity of land claimants, or cause any unnecessary alarm among the whites or Indians now residing in that valley. And you will be careful to give each claim that may be set up to land within the area of the contemplated reserve a scrutinizing investigation with regard to the legality of title, and properly represent all the facts and circumstances of each claim, as to extent and value, in your report to this office, that there may be no difficulty in deciding upon the reasonable value of the same. If there should be no obstacle to forbid your progress in the accomplishment of the leading object sought, you will at once designate the exterior boundaries of the new reservation to include a sufficient quantity of agricultural land to subsist all the Indians who are now within the Tejon or Fresno reserves, and all the bands south and southwest of the Fresno.

You will perceive that it is contemplated to abandon the Tejon, the Fresno, and all the Indian ranches or farms between the latter point and the southern boundary of the State, and concentrate the Indians thereof within the valley of the San Geronio pass.

The growing importance of Mendocino reservation, and the development of its agricultural resources, naturally indicate a suitable point of concentration for all the Indians now living within the Nome Lackee reserve, and all the bands or tribes west of the Sierra Nevada mountains, north of the Fresno, and at present dependent on the Nome Lackee reservation; but if you should not deem it advisable to abandon the Nome Lackee reserve, then the Indians in the neighborhood of Pitt river and west of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains, should be concentrated within the said reservation; however, I am inclined to favor the locality of the Mendocino, as it is on the coast, and comparatively easy of access, which is an item that should not be overlooked in the economy of modifying our Indian policy in California.

The recent explorations between the reservation and Cape Mendo-

cino tend to confirm the opinions expressed in connexion with the eligibility of the position for Indian purposes.

In consideration of the fact that the Klamath reservation is also situated on the Pacific coast, it is suggested as the third point of concentration for all the Indians north of Nome Lackee and west and north of the Sacramento. By thus bringing all the Indians of the State within the three reservations designated, on and near the coast, they would be further removed from the encroachments of white settlers, and would consequently be more secure from the attacks of hostile bands of their own race.

These general views are presented for the purpose of eliciting your opinions respecting the proposed change of policy, and you are expected, at the earliest practicable period, to make a full report to this office, embracing all the important facts involved in the contemplated change, with a free expression of such views as your experience and judgment may prompt in relation to this subject.

It is presumed that the faithful execution of the general plan herein indicated would curtail the aggregate expenses of the Indian service very much, by the consequent reduction of the number of employés, and the natural augmentation of the influence and efficiency of a smaller number of agents, where the Indians are brought within the circle of their influence, and thus become subjected to their immediate control; and the cost of transportation would also be very much diminished; but, in my opinion, the principal item of economy will be found to consist in the curtailment of the expenses to be incurred in providing the Indians with food, raiment, &c., as the advantages of concentration will enable the respective agents to teach them to abandon the chase, and rely upon the cultivation of the soil for an adequate subsistence; and by a judicious example the Indians will soon be inspired with energy, and prompted to industry, so as to secure an ample support as the result of their own labors, with but little aid from the government.

My attention has been called to the alleged necessity for the establishment of a reservation or farm for Indian purposes in El Dorado county; and as I entertain doubts respecting the policy of such a measure, you will give me a free and full expression of your views in relation to the expediency of the project, for the purpose of enabling this office to decide upon the propriety or impropriety of taking the initiative steps to effect the settlement of a portion of the Indians within that country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. DENVER.

THOS. J. HENLY, Esq.,  
*Supt. Indian Affairs, San Francisco, Cal.*