

98 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

No. 19.

TULE RIVER FARM, August 17, 1866.

Sir: That the Indians at this farm can by proper management be made to perform the labor required to grow their subsistence, the past year fully demonstrates. Our harvests are abundant, the Indians, under the direction of white men, having performed the labor. Besides the usual farm work during the past year, Indian labor constructed a road to the mountains, (some twenty-five miles to the timber,) and constructed a water ditch of five miles, at a cost of 2,000 days' labor. Whether they are capable of any improvement, beyond being made useful as laborers, is extremely doubtful. Their character is the most despicable, and, I may safely say, in an experience of over four years I never saw among them an indication of a virtue. A cruel, cowardly vagabond, given to thieving, gambling, drunkenness, and all that is vicious, without one redeeming trait, is a true picture of the California Digger; they only respect what they fear.

No schools have been attempted here, nor any religious instruction, nor could I recommend the expenditure of any money on such hopeless subjects.

The Indians are decreasing quite rapidly, and must soon become extinct. Whether they will decrease more rapidly, supported and protected in large bodies, as here, or allowed to run the mountains, suffering occasionally from hunger, and liable to be ill-treated by whites scarcely more human than they, is a question difficult correctly to decide. Could they be kept entirely from contact with the whites, (which would be quite impossible,) on a permanent reservation, it would be better for them, no doubt. But I cannot refrain from saying that this plan (its uncertain tenure and lack of system) has been and must continue to be of doubtful benefit to the Indians.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. J. HOFFMAN,
Special Agent, Tule River Farm.

Hon. D. N. COOLEY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.