

No. 35.

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
California, August 22, 1863.

Sir: Some two or three weeks since, and about eight or ten days previous to my late arrival in this valley, about 30 tons of hay and a barn belonging to one of the settlers of the valley were consumed by fire, and doubtless the mischief was the work of an incendiary. There was an investigation of the affair had by Captain Douglas, who commands the troops at this place, and the crime was fixed upon some five or six Indians of the Uka tribe, all of whom had been living with settlers of the valley, except one who lived upon that part of the valley occupied and cultivated as an Indian reservation. The principal testimony was that of two squaws living with white men, who testified to threats having been made by those Indians to that end. The result of the examination held by the captain was, as I understand, that the Indians were guilty, and consequently all of the accused were hanged by his order.

I am sure Captain Douglas has acted in this affair with the purest motives in view of preserving the peace and quiet of the valley, but that no blame should attach to either the supervisor or myself, as neither of us was consulted in regard to the case. I have thought best to lay the matter before you.

In connexion with this affair, I exceedingly regret having to inform you that about midnight last night some incendiary set fire to and destroyed some 2,000 or more bushels of government wheat, which constitutes two-thirds of our entire crop of that grain, compelling me to make additional purchases of wheat or other grain for the subsistence of the Indians who labored faithfully to produce so valuable a crop, and for the payment thereof I am constrained to ask for at least \$6,000 for their immediate relief, and for the six hundred I have already informed you I am compelled to bring to this reservation from Butte county, or allow them to be massacred by the white settlers.

A fellow distinguished for kidnapping Indian children has been arrested, examined and acquitted for burning this wheat, although the circumstances are strong against him, and nearly every one in the valley believes him guilty. He had been previously notified by Captain Douglas to leave the valley, and it is believed he committed the crime to be avenged.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Northern District California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.