

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

809

Butte creeks, also those of Pitt river, east of the Sacramento, have committed many depredations (so reported) within the past year. Several companies of citizens, as also a company of United States troops, have been endeavoring to restrain them in their depredations. At present, a volunteer force, under the authority of the State, is out in pursuit of these Indians.

The settlers of Round valley still refuse to vacate their land claims. A small detachment of United States troops now located there, it is believed, be sufficient, for the present, to protect the government property from injury. If, however, it is the intention of the government to reserve the entire valley for Indian purposes, some immediate steps should be taken to secure it, as the longer the delay the more difficult it becomes to settle the conflicting claims.

Respectfully yours,

VINCENT E. GEIGER,

*Indian Agent.*

J. Y. McDUFFIE, Esq.,

*Sup't Indian Affairs, San Francisco, Cal.*

No. 199.

OFFICE FRESNO INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,

*August 27, 1859.*

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the Indian department, I have the honor to submit this my annual report for the year 1859. There has no considerable change taken place in the condition of that portion of the Foot-hill Indians within the bounds of this agency, north of, and on the waters of, the San Joaquin river, since my last annual report, other than a gradual advance towards civilization. These people continue to enjoy the confidence and kind treatment of the white settlers, and have been blessed with good health; but owing to a want of success in the raising of subsistence on this farm for the last three years, after having labored hard and faithfully, and the loss of a larger portion of the crop raised on this place this season by smut; after having irrigated the land and having fine prospects, they have, in mass, become discouraged and dissatisfied with this place, and are now anxious to take their chances for success elsewhere within the bounds of their own country, where good land may be found and the seasons more reliable.

The Mo-nos continue to occupy that portion of this agency higher up in the mountains unmolested, and create no alarm whatever among the white settlers resident in this vicinity. They seek employment and labor for the few white settlers residing in their section of country during grain-growing season and harvest time, mine more or less during the summer and fall season of the year, after which the main portion of their time is well appropriated in the gathering and saving of the natural products of the mountains as a means of subsistence during the winter and spring seasons of the year; and in this way, with the assistance I have been able to afford them in the way of food and clothing,

they have as yet been able to provide themselves with a comfortable living for Indians.

I have endeavored to encourage these people in their usual industry by furnishing them seed and tools; but as yet they do not seem to have any inclination for agricultural pursuits. They have also enjoyed fine health. Among these people and among the Chook-chan-cies, the largest unbroken tribe within the bounds of this agency, there have been numerous births and but few deaths, whilst among the other tribes there have been many deaths and but few births, which unnatural consequence is mostly attributed to the social intercourse between the women of the latter and the men of other denominations. The King's River and Tulare Lake Indians, within the bounds of this agency, have not been so fortunate as to live in peace among their white neighbors. As usual, in that section of country, soon after the labors of harvest were overlast fall, the troubles commenced in that vicinity; for causes, in my opinion, too trivial to have been acted upon by the more favored class of citizens in any country. The perpetrators of those disturbances were no doubt in the minority, had the sense of the people been properly taken; notwithstanding, they succeeded in burning their ranches and subjecting to waste their effects and their means of subsistence provided for their support during the winter season, and, like herds of sheep, these helpless "Diggers" were forced upon this (Fresno) farm.

Those who drove them here, knowing that I had neither funds to buy with nor subsistence to feed them on, publicly avowing the extermination of their race in the event of their returning to their native land, thus forcing this agency into an unavoidable expenditure, to save life during the winter and spring season of the year 1859, of not less than ten thousand dollars over and above the amount that would have been required under ordinary circumstances, and subjecting these unfortunate people to much suffering, and even death, dependent on such lawless abuse. These fated objects of charity, after having remained on this farm some five months, influenced by hunger and paternal attachment for their native land, commenced leaving this place by tribes and smaller parties, until the most of them succeeded in again regaining the soil from whence they were driven, where they are again threatened a similar fate. I do at this time feel called upon, in the name of the peace and prosperity of these people, and the interest of the Indian department, to recommend their removal from that section of country into the mountains, where they will be less expense to the government, less subject to the abuse of ill-disposed white men; where the land is better and seasons more reliable. The crowding of the Foot-hills from north to south within the bounds of this agency, during the last twelve months, more especially the immediate vicinity of this and King's river farm, with the various kinds of stock and the various classes of men, has made apparent the policy and necessity of moving the entire Indian population higher up in the mountains, and settling them on the soil of their nativity, where there is plenty of government land, temporarily occupied by white settlers, whose improvements can be bought for a nominal sum when compared with its importance to this agency, and

in a section of country, too, where the soil is better, climate more pleasant, and seasons for all kinds of grain never failing.

All of which is very respectfully submitted by

Your most obedient,

M. B. LEWIS, *Sub-Agent*

JAMES Y. McDUFFIE, Esq.,

*Sup't Indian Affairs, San Francisco, Cal.*

No. 200.

TEJON AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,

August 12, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my annual report. The Indians within this agency number, approximately, fifteen hundred souls; of this number about six hundred compose the families that are now living upon the Tejon reservation. Throughout the entire agency, during the past year, the Indians have enjoyed general good health, and have been peaceable. The crops on the reserve have been below an average yield, the causes of which were given in my last annual report, in which I stated the drawbacks to the successful cultivation of crops, except in very wet seasons, and the general prosperity of the reservation; and now, after another year's experience, I see no reason to change my opinions or recommendations therein expressed. The policy of setting apart a small quantity of land to each Indian family to cultivate, with the understanding that the products thereof would be exclusively the benefit of the individual that farmed it, was adopted last season, and with the most flattering results. The Indians are well satisfied with this plan, knowing that they are working for themselves, and secured in the enjoyment of the fruits of their labor.

Owing to the recent reduction of employes on the reservation, I deem it prudent to suggest that a small detachment of troops be stationed near the agency buildings, to protect our lives and the public property from destruction in case of an outbreak among the Indians, which experience has taught us to expect at any moment and to guard against. It is not surprising that Indians having such facilities for obtaining whisky, as those under my charge, are often found drunk. At such times, and I might say at any time in our present defenseless condition, should an attempt be made to punish them for drunkenness or insubordination, it would be too much of a temptation for the Indians to rebel, and, if persisted in, to overpower us.

I would respectfully call attention to what I conceive a matter of importance as regard, the prosperity of the reservation, and the future peaceful disposition of the Tejon Indians. The extent of the Tejon or Sebastian reservation, when first established, was 50,000 acres of land, surveyed and set apart for the exclusive use of the Indians. This quantity was reduced by Congress to 10,000 acres, and, after a short lapse of time, increased to 25,000 acres. These changes have set aside the first survey, and have left what is reserved land entirely