

No. 67.

AGENCY FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, August 30, 1862.

SIR: In conformity with the requirements of the Indian department I have the honor to submit this, my annual report, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1862, showing the condition of the various Indian tribes which have been intrusted to my care.

I have but recently returned from my tour of inspection through the entire district under my charge, embracing a tract of country of more than eight hundred miles in length, by about three hundred miles in width.

It is with pleasure that I communicate to you that my endeavors to advance the interests of the Indians on the Tejon reservation in the cultivation of the soil, and subsisting the Indians by their own labor, has been, in a great measure, successful. Last year there was no ground under cultivation; this year I have at least two hundred and fifty acres of wheat and barley grown on the government farm, and about one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation for the Indian camps. The crops of grain are excellent, the grain yielding extraordinarily even for California, averaging from thirty to forty bushels per acre. The Indians in the vicinity of the reservation do not fail to see and appreciate the beneficial results of well applied industry and systematic labor, and are flocking in numbers to the place. There is a great increase over the census taken in November of last year, and the Indian tribes from Kern river, Tehachipe, Posa Flat, and parts more remote, will soon remove to the reservation.

The Indians properly belonging at present to the Tejon reservation may be numbered at about 1,370, among whom are the following thrifty tribes or bands, (who are reliable and very willing to work so long as they can feel assured of enjoying the fruits of their labor.)

The Sierra or Cucuana Indians, under their chief, Vicente, number 36 men, 40 women, and 20 children; they own 22 cows and 33 horses, and cultivate about 30 acres of land as their own farm.

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The Laguna or Tutagua tribes, Chief Raimundo, number 80 men, 88 women, and 63 children; they own 30 horses, and have 50 acres of land under cultivation.

The Surillo or Cartaka tribe, Chiefs Chico and Rafael, number 52 men, 65 women, and 45 children; they own 20 horses, and have 40 acres of land under cultivation.

These Indians all belong to the race known in California as the "Diggers;" there are several hundred of the same class living on the Laguna, Tihatchipe, Hockeye, Kern river, Posa creek, and other localities within the bounds of this portion of my district, but many of them prefer hunting and fishing to engaging in the pursuits of agriculture. I have encouraged the Indians to cultivate their own farms, to grow grain and vegetables, and to plant vines and fruit trees near their houses.

I have met with considerable difficulty in getting them to conform to my wishes in these respects, as they have but little faith, from their past experience, that they will reap any reward for their labor. I have assured them that the government will protect them; and I therefore repeat the suggestion made in a former report, "to have the Tejon reservation surveyed, and the land set apart by an act of Congress for the exclusive use of the Indians," this reservation being particularly well adapted to their wants. In this connexion I would urge upon the department the importance of holding possession of so desirable an Indian farm. It is, I believe, claimed by private parties under a Spanish grant. I am of the opinion, however, that the United States have the best title to it, and I would respectfully suggest that the Secretary of the Interior instruct the United States district attorney of the northern district to examine into the title of said property, as it is one of the best locations for an Indian reservation within the whole southern country. The action of some of the *rancheros* and white settlers in the neighborhood of the reservation, in driving their stock within its bounds, has caused much trouble and dissatisfaction to the Indians.

There has been no effort made to educate these Indians, and fear, rather than the inculcation of a love of labor for its beneficial results to themselves, has been employed to make them till the ground. Some of them who had previously resided at the old missions possess the desire to have their children baptized and taught to read. It would be desirable, I think, to establish a school upon the manual labor system for the instruction of the youth in the economy of labor, and to have the girls taught sewing, and for the inculcation of more correct ideas of morality, and the consequent elevation of the character of the rising generation of both sexes. The Indians generally would in time be more benefited by the inauguration of such a system than by giving them presents.

The buildings on the reservation have suffered considerably from the heavy rains of the past winter, and the mill needs thorough repairs; a large shed should also be built to protect the wagons and agricultural implements. The accompanying map will enable you to form a correct idea of the localities of the several tribes and their farms on this reservation, and also of the encroachments made by the white settlers in the vicinity. Of the urgent necessity existing for the immediate removal of the latter evil I need not dilate. Their presence corrupts the Indians, and makes them discontented under the most favorable treatment and circumstances, and their real object is to break up the reservation and "squat" on the land.

I continued my tour of inspection from the Tejon to what is known as the Colorado district. This district extends east and west from the Mojave to the Colorado river and to the Pacific coast, and southward to the boundary line between California and Mexico. Within this extent of country there are at least ten thousand of the most warlike and intelligent Indians within the boundaries of this State. They comprise the Santa Inez tribe, Venturancans, San

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Taisancans, Cabezons, Coahuilas, Seranos, Coyotes, Chumas, Chimehuahuas, Yumas, Mojaves, (divided into different small tribes,) Kanawamahs, and Wal-lupis. Nearly all of these Indians are by nature agriculturists, and it would require but little aid and instruction from the government to render them contented and peaceful tillers of the soil, and I desire to call your special attention to the paramount necessity of providing some isolated and advantageously situated locality as an Indian reservation for this beneficial object. The two races, whites and Indians, cannot live harmoniously together, and the only salvation for the latter is complete separation from the former.

My first official visit was made to the Indians living in the vicinity of San Bernardino. I found these peaceful and industrious people nearly in a destitute condition. They are, however, quiet and inoffensive, although robbed of the larger portion of the territory from which they derived their subsistence by the encroachments of the white race. In order to relieve their immediate wants, I have made arrangements to take to them some beans and rice, and it will be also absolutely necessary to give them this fall some agricultural implements. The constant development of new mineral regions in that portion of my department, and the constant influx of white population, renders it imperative that something should be done for the relief of these tribes. By making a judicious use of the government funds placed at my disposal, I shall encourage them to practice and seek in agriculture the means of subsistence of a more permanent character than those upon which they have been accustomed to rely. Some of the Indians of this neighborhood are digging for gold near San Gorgonia; others of the tribe of José Antonio are engaged in their annual search for food in the mountains, while the Cabezons and other tribes resident in the Coahuila valley are engaged in agricultural pursuits at their rancherias.

These rancherias or Indian settlements in the Coahuila valley are called Agua Caliente, Toros, Cabezon and Martinez. Agua Caliente, fifty-four miles from San Bernardino, is so named from the hot sulphur springs found there. The rancheria comprises a number of huts occupied by a small tribe of Serranos, about two hundred souls in all, who cultivate this fertile spot (an *oasis* in the midst of a desert) and raise, by irrigation, corn, wheat, barley, melons, &c., in abundance. This is the place where Mr. Rush Dickey, a resident of San Bernardino, was murdered last May, and also where the fight occurred between the party of whites who went out there to recover his body and arrest the murderers, in which skirmish two of the Indians were killed and several others wounded. This affair threatened for a while to grow into a serious war, but by the intervention of Cabezon, the head chief of all the tribes in the valley, and the execution some time after of one of the murderers in San Bernardino by the whites, and the speedy arrest and killing of the other (the principal) by his own tribe, the whole matter was considered settled satisfactorily to all.

The Rancheria de los Toros is thirty-five miles from Agua Caliente. The Indians (Coahuilas) at this place are about two hundred and fifty in number. They cultivate some one hundred acres of land, growing thereon wheat, barley, corn, melons, and the mezquit. They are under the direction of the capitán, or chief, José Ignacio, who claims the land by purchase from the former original proprietor. The rancheria of Cabezon, the head chief of all the Indians of the Coahuila valley, is about midway between Toros and Martinez, being about three miles from either. The land about his rancheria, or village, is well cultivated by the families who reside there.

The Rancheria de Martinez, under the control of the chief Martinez, is the largest of these settlements in point of population and in the number of acres of land under cultivation. The productions are similar to those grown at the other settlements in the valley. Most of these Indians possess horses, which they use as riding and pack animals.

I should estimate the total population of the Cabezon, or Coahuila valley, at

from eight hundred to one thousand Indians. They are generally peaceable and industrious; many of them, when not at work in their own fields, seek employment at San Bernardino, or at the farms, orchards, and vineyards in the vicinity of that town. During the "rush" of miners to the Colorado river, which took place within the month of June, numbers of them travelled thither by the route leading through the Cabezon settlements, and they all speak favorably of the friendly disposition manifested towards them by these Indians. I must also state, from all that I have seen and heard, the whites have conducted themselves extremely well, paying the Indians liberally for all they have had and respecting their rights and property as far as possible.

That portion of my department for which I feel the most anxiety is lying between Beal's crossing of the Colorado river (sometimes called Fort Mojave) to Fort Yuma, at the mouth of the Gila, a distance of at least twenty-five miles. In this region gold and silver mines and gold placers have been discovered of such rich report as to attract to that portion of the country a very large emigration. These unprotected miners will undoubtedly offer to the numerous and warlike tribes of Indians of that country a temptation which they will find it impossible to resist. Almost the entire emigration to these mines will have to pass through the country occupied by the Mojaves, Kamwawahis, and Wallipes, who are not only numerous and hostile, but of unquestioned courage, and I venture the prediction that, unless Fort Mojave be re-established, we shall hear of the massacre of unoffending and unprotected miners at and on the road to the new placers. It will be very easy to prevent this by placing three or four companies of soldiers in garrison at Fort Mojave; but a war once inaugurated with these important and powerful tribes would not only cause a great loss of life, but the expenditure of vast sums of money by the government. I cannot too earnestly press upon you the necessity of reorganizing that military post and thereby insuring the peace of that portion of my department. My attention has been drawn to a bill, introduced by the Hon. M. L. Latham in the Senate, proposing to sell the reservations in the southern district of California, and to remove all the Indians to Owen's river. I have all respect for Mr. Latham, and would not, unless prompted by the most positive dictates of duty, oppose him in any measure that he might advocate in Congress relative to the best interest of California, but his proposition is subject to innumerable objections. I shall not enter into a lengthy discussion of the merits or demerits of the proposed bill, but will rest content with a single statement, made from my personal knowledge of the country and of the Indians, to show that the scheme is utterly impracticable. In my department there are at least sixteen thousand Indians, and Owen's River valley, cultivated in the most skillful manner, with all the modern improvements, by intelligent white labor, would not support that population. How, then, would it be possible for the numerous tribes, strangers to each other, and comparatively ignorant of the first principles of agricultural pursuits, to sustain themselves on such a reservation? The narrow valley of Owen's river is only, at this time, sufficient for the support of the very small number of Indians (fifteen hundred by census) who at present occupy and inhabit it, and the cause of the war now waged there is the desperation of the Indians because of the fact that the emigration to the mines in that vicinity has destroyed the grass seed upon which they, in a great measure, had been accustomed to subsist.

I leave on the steamer of the 1st for San Pedro, from thence inland some two hundred miles, to the Tejon Indian reservation, and from there I shall proceed immediately to the scene of the Indian war, taking with me a portion of the annuity goods and some provisions for the Indians, who are in a very destitute condition. I shall make a treaty with them for the time, until Congress can be induced to make an appropriation sufficient for the emergency. The war there has already cost the government more than ninety thousand dollars. If the committee on Indian Affairs had responded promptly to the estimate

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which I made last winter for funds, viz: fifty-nine thousand three hundred dollars, I sincerely believe the whole difficulty could have been avoided. I say this with all due deference to the judgment of those who sat in council upon that estimate. I think we who are upon the ground are better able to judge of the wants of the Indians than those so far distant from them.

The Tule river Indian farm I have been obliged to rent for the current year, in order to secure the grain crop. Here I have succeeded in saving out of more than two hundred acres sown only one hundred and thirty acres; the freshets of last winter having swept the balance away. With the permission of the department I propose to give up the further renting of this farm, and to remove the Indians thereon to the Tejon reservation, a distance of some ninety miles further south. Therefore, before such a step is taken, I would again most respectfully urge upon the department the necessity of establishing the title of the United States to the Tejon reservation.

I would also urge the importance of a ready response to requisitions made upon the appropriations for this department of the Indian service. It would facilitate my movements, and be the means of preventing a repetition of Indian troubles, such as have occurred in the Owen's river country.

The appropriations made by Congress for this district are entirely inadequate to its pressing wants.

A further consideration of this matter I shall defer to a special report, which will be forwarded to the department on my return from Owen's river.

Hoping the department will approve of the course so far pursued by me in this superintendency, and consider that the recommendations and suggestions which I have made in this report are the conclusions of mature deliberation, founded on knowledge and belief,

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. H. WENTWORTH,
Superintendent, Agent S. D. California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
