

No. 198.

NOME LACKEES INDIAN RESERVE,

August 31, 1859.

SIR: In obedience to instructions heretofore received, I beg leave to submit this my annual report. During the past year, notwithstanding the loss of some two hundred acres of wheat by smut, there have been grown on this reserve and housed, about fifteen thousand bushels of grain, consisting of wheat, rye, and barley, more than sufficient to subsist the Indians now here, or that will probably be brought to this place. Owing to the failure of water for irrigation some two months sooner this season than heretofore, the vegetable crop was a failure.

At Nome-Cult Indian farm, attached to this agency, there was raised about one thousand bushels of wheat, rye, and barley. The corn crop there will turn out well, estimated at about seven hundred bushels, also a large quantity of melons, pumpkins, and other vegetables. The potato crop bids fair for an abundant yield. By gathering acorns, of which there is an immense yield this year, and which are highly prized by the Indians, I think there will be a plentiful supply of food for the Indians in and around Round valley.

At this place, (Nome-Lackee,) there are remnants of the tribes of Nome-Lackees, Wye-Lackees, Noi-Mucks, Noi-Yucans, and Noi-Sas, numbering in all, about one thousand souls. There are about three thousand Yukas who make Nome-Cult their home, although that number is not

permanently located at that place. Until recently, there were there about two hundred Nevadas. Most of them have, however, left and made their way to the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Probably there are about twenty-five of this tribe remaining in that valley, although not on the farm. During the past year a great number of Indians have left this (Nome Lackee) reserve; and within the last six weeks, several hundred of the Noi-Yucans, and Noi-Mucks, and Wye-Lackees, have made their way to their old locations. It has been impossible for the agent, from the want of men and means, to follow and recapture them. As the rainy season approaches, it is believed that the greater portion of the Noi-Mucks will return to the reservation. The others who left this place, and those of the Nevadas who left Nome-Cult, will have to be brought back, as they are dispersed among the foot-hills and along the water courses east of the Sacramento river.

This place is situated only about twenty miles from the Sacramento river, and it is almost impossible to prevent the escape of the Indians who feel disposed to leave. It takes them but a few hours to reach the river, where they are aided in their flight by the river Indians, if not by white persons. In several instances, when runaway Indians have been pursued, the employes of the government have met with strenuous opposition from the whites while in the act of recapturing them. In order to keep their squaws, on one or two occasions, white men have married them. To retain the Indians of the lower Sacramento valley on this place without an increase of employes, is hardly to be expected. There is reason to believe that white men in Round valley have been tampering with the Indians of that place, and to their evil counsels and malicious feelings is to be attributed the loss of the Nevada Indians. To some extent, the same cause has operated at this place.

Upon an examination of the survey of this place, after the proclamation for the sale of government lands in this district, it was found that a portion of the land heretofore considered as belonging to the reservation, was not included in the survey; and it was consequently sold by the register of the land office as unreserved lands. A portion, also, was located by State school land warrants. The land thus sold cannot hereafter be cultivated for the benefit of the reservation; yet, there is on the place more land for farming purposes than can be worked.

This reserve, since its establishment, has probably fulfilled its mission. At the time of its location, the Indians west of the Sacramento river were very hostile and troublesome. They made frequent incursions upon the herds and crops of the settlers of the valley, and were guilty of many outrages on the property and persons of the white inhabitants. To quiet Indian disturbances, give safety to the lives and property of the citizens of this section of the State, as well as to gather in the Indians of this immediate scope of country, and prepare a place for the support and protection of all the Indians of the Sacramento valley, its tributaries, and those of the mountain regions of the Sierra Nevada, Trinity and Coast range, were the leading inducements for the establishment of the Nome-Lackee reservation, which was then

supposed to be removed from the white settlements a sufficient distance to prevent any interference by them with the purposes of the department. These objects, as far as possible, have been obtained. There is no longer any dread of danger from the Indians residing between the Sacramento river and the Coast range of mountains. They are all quiet, and doubtless will remain so, unless goaded to hostilities by the outrages of unprincipled white men who may get amongst them. The country in the vicinity of the reservation is thickly settled with white citizens, who have no apprehensions on account of the Indians. But, as to making this place now a home for the Indians of the mountain districts and the east side of the Sacramento river, I am fully persuaded it is impracticable; we have too much white population in the immediate vicinity. The means of escape are so easy and convenient, that the Indians can elude the utmost vigilance of the few persons designated for their charge. To bring to this reserve the Indians of the Sacramento valley, those from the Trinity and the Nevada mountains, and from the foot-hills, east of the Sacramento river, is now an almost useless expenditure of public money. The Indians from many of the districts, spoken of can, in two days after leaving here, reach their old haunts, and renew their annoyances upon the white inhabitants. The only way to provide for the safe keeping of these Indians is, in my opinion, to put them on the reserve, either at Round Valley or Mendocino.

An Indian war, under the auspices of the State government, is now being waged against the Indians east of the Sacramento river. Some prisoners have been taken and sent to Mendocino, this place not being considered sufficiently distant to prevent their return, unless a large force be kept to guard and watch them. In view, then, of all the circumstances, it is respectfully suggested that the Indians here, and those of the entire Sacramento valley, be removed west of the Coast range of mountains, and the lands included in this reservation be thrown open to the occupancy of our citizens. By this means, a large and valuable tract of country for agricultural and grazing purposes will be transferred to the hands of an energetic and enterprising population, resulting in increased wealth and prosperity to this section of the State. If, however, it should be deemed expedient to continue this place, and locate upon it the Indians who may be brought here by the troops or the citizens, or those who may come upon it voluntarily, it is suggested that the force now allowed for carrying on operations is wholly inadequate, and your attention is called to a communication from this agency to the department, dated January 26, 1859, the time at which the order for a reduction of the forces upon the reserves was received. Your attention is also called to the fact that this reserve is wholly uninclosed. The stock of the settlers range all over it, and unless there is allowed additional white force to accompany the Indians in their efforts to drive off, and keep off, the herds that encroach upon us, it will result in the partial destruction of whatever crops may be sown this fall. The Indian vaqueros require the presence of white employes to protect them from those who have stock, and who threaten and deter the Indians when in the act of driving off the stock from the reserve. The Indian tribes located on Mill, Antelope, Deer, and

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

808

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, will, 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,

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