

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 35.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, September 1, 1864.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of 23d of May last, in reference to the annual report of the condition of Indian affairs in this superintendency, I have the honor to forward as complete a return as the limited time at my disposal will allow me to compile.

I have occupied my present position only since the 26th of May, and much of my time has been employed in receiving the property from my predecessors, and in effecting such changes as the good of the service seemed most urgently to demand.

I have communicated freely with the department, and endeavored to inform you as fully as possible of the condition in which I found Indian affairs, and of my action in relation thereto, as well as proposed plans for the future. I deem a repetition of these matters to be unnecessary, and shall confine this report to a general account of the location and character of the several reservations, the number and condition of the Indians thereon, and of farming operations during the year.

I accompany this with sketches of the four reservations within my superintendency, from which you can form a general idea of their situation and extent, the position of the improvements, &c.

Please find, also, a statistical report of farming operations, as required by your circular of January 11, 1862, and a report of the number of Indians, &c., as required by circular of June 21, 1861. As regards the latter, I regret to state that I am unable to furnish any replies to the questions in that circular, from four to eleven inclusive, as nothing of any consequence has been done toward the education or religious instruction of the Indians. Of affairs in general, I am able to say that, in consideration of all the circumstances, and of the difficulties that met me upon assuming charge of the superintendency, they are prosperous, and progressing satisfactorily.

The condition of Indian affairs in the counties of Humboldt, Klamath, and Trinity most earnestly demanded my attention upon entering upon the discharge of my duties. This section of the country had been cursed for years with a destructive Indian war, that had well-nigh ruined its business interests, and promised to end only in the extermination of the Indians. A vigorous campaign, accompanied by great loss of life, had been waged during the past year, and the Indians, though severely dealt with, were still unsubdued, but,

through the efforts of the district commander, had ceased hostilities and came into Hoopa valley, the home of most of the warriors, where, with their arms still in their possession, they were waiting some action on the part of the government toward establishing a treaty.

It had been the hope of the people of this section, as well as the military authorities, that these Indians might be removed to some point south of San Francisco, as sad experience and a knowledge of their character convinced all that they would not remain on any reservation unless its natural situation rendered it utterly impossible for them to return. In this hope I earnestly shared, and in letters to the department urged in the strongest terms that such a course be adopted; but permission to carry out this policy having been denied it only remained to adopt the next best course, and I at once proceeded to Hoopa valley to treat with the Indians. Of my action there, resulting in the establishment of a reservation in Hoopa valley, and the surrender of their arms by the Indians, you were fully advised in my letter of the 29th ultimo. I am confident that if my course be approved, and government act in good faith with the Indians, no further trouble will ensue. In this connexion I would suggest that when the improvements of the settlers are appraised, their farming implements, and such other articles as may be required on the reservation, be included and paid for out of the same appropriation. I urge this as a matter of justice to all concerned, for they will be needed in the cultivation of the land, and will be worthless to their present owners.

SMITH RIVER RESERVATION

Is situated in the valley of the same name, in the extreme northern part of the State, and about two miles from the coast. There are at present seven hundred and forty-five Indians at this agency, most of whom have been removed from the Bald Hills and the vicinity of Eel and Mad rivers, in Humboldt county. Their general condition is good, though they are suffering somewhat from lack of blankets and proper clothing, which I shall be able to supply upon the arrival of the expected shipment. There are twenty-eight Indian houses, made of sawed lumber, twelve by sixteen feet in size, which are good, comfortable buildings. These are occupied by the Humboldt Indians, while the Bald Hill and Bear River tribes live in rude huts of their own construction. The mortality among the latter is very large, and they must be provided with better shelter before the winter, and receive in future more care and attention.

The land on which the reservation is established is at present rented from different individuals at from four to five dollars an acre per annum for the land actually cultivated. The buildings are on the farm of D. E. Buell, which contains some eleven hundred acres, two hundred and twenty of which are cultivated. Upon this farm is quite a fine orchard, which will produce this season about a thousand bushels of apples. The land hired from other parties, and cultivated, amounts to about two hundred and sixty-one acres. The crops this year are very good, yielding all that will be required for the use of the Indians. I am not prepared to offer an opinion as to whether a reservation should be permanently established at this locality or not, as I have been unable to visit this place. I propose, however, to proceed there at an early day, and will then take some action in the matter.

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION.

Of the location of this reservation, and the condition in which I found matters there, I advised you in my letters of June 1 and 30.

There are at present upon it some nine hundred and fifty Indians, who are well cared for, and apparently contented and happy.

Their winter houses are built of oak slats ten feet in length, merely laid together, and forming rude "campoodies," such as they lived in before they knew the whites. During the summer they prefer huts of brush. They seem to have received no encouragement in building more comfortable houses, though they deserve better ones, and I intend that they shall have assistance in erecting them as soon as the harvesting is completed. They still grind their wheat by hand, or, more properly, crush it between two flat stones; a small grist-mill would add greatly to their comfort. The health of these Indians has greatly improved under the care of Dr. Waller, and they are in all respects doing well. The agency buildings are in a bad state of repair, and will require considerable labor to render them tenable. The crops at this reservation are very large; of grain and vegetables there is plenty and to spare. The fertility of the soil and the salubrity of the climate cannot be surpassed, while its singular isolation forbids its ever being desirable to the whites, and renders it peculiarly valuable for the purposes of an Indian reservation.

MENDOCINO RESERVATION.

Having recommended that this reservation be abandoned, I merely refer you to my letter of 30th June, and to the accompanying sketch, for information. The crops here are rather light, but from the abundance of fish, &c., the Indians are not likely to suffer, and, if it is found necessary, grain can be spared them from the reservation at Round valley.

TULE RIVER INDIAN FARM.

I have as yet been unable to visit the portion of the State known formerly as the southern district, but receive favorable accounts of the condition of affairs from the agent in charge. All the Indians who depend upon the department for subsistence have been removed to the Tule river Indian farm, where good crops have been harvested, and they are well provided for. Of the eight hundred Indians on this farm, about three hundred and fifty are of the Owen's river tribe, and all seem comfortable and satisfied. Their houses are built of posts put in the ground and covered with split boards, and are very comfortable.

This farm consists of twelve hundred and eighty acres of land, of which about three hundred are cultivable, and is owned by Mr. F. P. Madden, from whom it was rented by former Superintending Agent Wentworth. The crops are excellent this season, much better than on any farm in that section of the country, owing principally to the fact that the crop was sowed early, and to the exertions of the agent in charge in carefully attending it. I am confident that there need be no lack of food at this point. The climate of Tule River valley is generally considered rather unhealthy, but the proximity of the agency to the mountains (to which the Indians frequently resort) obviates all that is detrimental in the climate.

I have thus hastily noticed a few of the principal items connected with the service in my superintendency. I hope in my next annual report to be able to represent matters in a more favorable light. There is much room for improvement—a wide field before me in bettering the condition of the miserable beings intrusted to my charge, and establishing the reservation system upon a more thorough and satisfactory basis. To bring about such a result no efforts on my part shall be spared, and I trust I may receive the hearty co-operation of the department in the labor before me.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs

Hon. W. P. DOLE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 263

Report of Indians on the reservation within the California superintendency, September 1, 1864.

Reservations.	Names of tribes.	Number.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
Smith River.....	Humboldt and Eel River.....	160	180	340
Do.....	Mattole.....	16	29	45
Do.....	Bear River.....	14	19	33
Do.....	Bald Hill.....	163	164	327
Round Valley.....	Cou-cows and Yankee Hills.....	125	200	325
Do.....	Pitt Rivers.....	100	225	325
Do.....	Eukus.....	85	215	300
Mendocino*.....	Kiunamaras.....	46	54	100
Do.....	Yo-sol Pomas.....	44	56	100
Do.....	Redwood.....	22	28	50
Do.....	Cam-el-lel Pomas.....	23	27	50
Do.....	Ki Pomas.....	65	85	150
Do.....	Co-ba-de-la Pomus.....	140	160	300
Do.....	Cah-lah-lel Pomus.....			
Do.....	She-bal-ne Pomus.....			
Tule River.....	Owen's River.....			350
Do.....	Tule River and others.....			450
Hoopu Valley.....	Various tribes, (about).....			600
		1,003	1,442	3,845

AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.

* This number embraces all the Indians in the vicinity of Mendocino, including those off of the reservation proper, who are employed by white men.

Annual report of farming operations in the California superintendency, 1864.

Name of reservation.	Size of the reserve.	No. of acres cultivated by government.	No. cultivated by Indians.	Bushels of wheat raised.	Bushels of corn.	Bushels of oats.	Bushels of barley.	Bushels of peas.	Bushels of potatoes.	Bushels of sweet potatoes.	Bushels of carrots.
Smith River.....	481	452		1,200		4,000		2,000	2,500		500
Round Valley.....	5,000	940		10,000	6,000	2,000	3,000	400	1,000		3,000
Mendocino.....	25,000	230	30			6,000	900	300	1,500		
Tule River.....	1,280	185	75	3,300	400		1,100		400	900	
Total.....	31,761	1,827	105	14,500	6,400	12,000	5,000	2,700	5,400	900	3,500

264. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Annual report of farming operations, &c.—Continued.

Name of reservation.	Bushels of beets.	Bushels of turnips.	Bushels of buck-wheat.	Bushels of apples.	Bushels of beans.	Tons of hay cut.	No. of horses.	No. owned by In- dians.	No. of mules.	No. of neat cattle.	No. of swine.	No. of chickens.
Smith River.....	100	400	50	1,000	.....	50	35	.....	1	149	100	82
Round Valley.....	2,000	.....	.....	.....	30	300	20	1	16	514	226	75
Menocino.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	1	47	.....	.....
Tule River.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	.....	29	100	43	.....	4	.....
Total.....	2,100	400	50	1,000	70	350	98	101	61	710	330	157

REMARKS.—But a small portion of the crops are yet harvested, and the amount of grain, &c., in the foregoing report is estimated as the probable yield.

I hereby certify that the above report is correct:

AUSTIN WILEY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.