

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 207

No. 28.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, September 7, 1863.

SIR: In submitting my annual report, I shall not dwell in detail upon the various reasons which I have given in former reports in favor of reducing the number of Indian reservations from four to two, and enlarging those retained, and selling Mendocino and Nome-Lackee reservations, and applying the proceeds to the payment of the settlers' improvements in Round and Smith River valleys, thereby securing to the Indian service a good and suitable location for all the coast Indians, and one for the interior Indians, where they could and would be contented and happy. In adopting this policy nearly one-half the expense of keeping the reservations would be saved to the government in the matter of tools, teams, and employés.

Again, in connexion with economy, allow me to assure you that, had one quarter of the money expended by the United States in the employment and maintenance of troops for the subjugation and collection of Indians been faithfully applied to the procurement of suitable reservations and stocking the same well with tools, teams, cattle, sheep, &c., &c., thereby making desirable homes for the Indians, not one-quarter of the trouble between the races would ever have existed. But the policy of the government has been to expend millions for troops, and a few scanty thousands for the comfort and maintenance of the Indians; and while the government pursues this pennywise policy, the Indian service must ever remain in a crippled condition.

In truth the troops, as a general thing, stationed at or near Indian reservations, are a great curse to the Indian service, for, in spite of the vigilant efforts of their own officers and of the officers and employés on the reservation, soldiers will clandestinely mix and cohabit with the squaws, thereby spreading disease and death broadcast among them. If, therefore, the policy I have so frequently and importunately urged be adopted, of employing none on the reservations but married men of good deportment, and increasing the laboring force so as to give each reservation a supervisor, who should be an energetic and practical farmer, one physician, one blacksmith, one carpenter, one miller, and one herdsman, and a laborer with each tribe of Indians thus settled on the various farms, suited in size to the number of Indians in the tribes; and a suitable married man as farmer, and each of those farmers provided with suitable barns, cribs, dwelling and out-houses, sheds, &c., then each of these reservations would be self-protecting as against the kidnappers, squaw-men, and all intruders.

As to the perfect safety of the employés against the Indians, no instance has ever occurred, under my notice or hearing, endangering in the least the white employés. Hence the propriety of at once adopting this policy. Reduce the number of reservations to two, make a more liberal appropriation, especially for one or two years, and remove all settlers and soldiers from the reservation entirely; then, and not till then, will the Indian service prosper in California.

A saw and grist mill is needed in Round valley. I have selected an excellent site for one, in close proximity to the valley, to be run by water power, and will make a commencement on the dam immediately. The machinery and work of a millwright, however, will require more funds than can be had from the last year's scanty appropriation.

The Indians recently collected in Butte county, together with those that were driven from or left Round valley last September, have involved an expense of some four or five thousand dollars. They are now being removed to Round valley. I could not negotiate for their removal by water to Smith river for less

than eight thousand dollars; and as I had no money to pay that expense, I have become personally responsible for the expense of removing them by land to Round valley, which will be from one to two thousand dollars.

All the crops are better than have been harvested in any former year; but owing to the loss of some two or three thousand bushels of wheat by fire, at Round valley, which I have already informed you I believed to have been set on fire by a squaw-man and kidnapper, and the removal of the Indians from Butte county, it will require additional purchases of wheat and cattle.

More than one-half of the cattle purchased for that reservation have arrived or are now arriving. The remainder will soon follow; but, should rain set in early, I have agreed to extend the time.

No bids were accepted for Mendocino, and only a small one for Smith river, the bids being considered too high.

Complaints are being made as usual from Humboldt bay, that small parties of Indians are leaving Smith river and returning to that place. I have made particular inquiries about it, and find it to be untrue. The Indians all remain, and appear quite contented and happy at the prospect of an abundant harvest and additional houses to live in through the winter. The clothing has all been shipped and will soon be issued to the Indians, but will be entirely inadequate for their real wants.

Owing to the lack of teams at Smith river, and having to hire at very high prices, I made a purchase of nineteen large likely young American mares, and eleven colts, in Oregon, where they were much cheaper than in California, involving an expense of over three thousand dollars, so that the reservation for the present is amply provided with teams. A like number and quality is now needed for Round valley, which, with their increase, will serve for horse teams abundantly.

In Round valley I made a purchase of three improvements; two adjoining our farming lands, and one near the mill site. The latter had been a great harbor for kidnappers and squaw-men, and this purchase breaks up that troublesome nest entirely; and the two adjoining our farms will put us at once in possession of some three hundred acres of good arable and pasture lands. It is very desirable that a sum be appropriated to pay for all the improvements in the valley; and if all can be paid for on as good terms as I procured these, a much smaller sum is wanted to purchase the whole than my former estimate, \$50,000. In making an estimate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, I have aimed at a reasonable minimum, viz:

For indebtedness over the present appropriation	\$6, 000
For clothing, subsistence, tools, &c.	65, 000
For removal of Indians.	15, 000
For salary of superintending agent.	3, 000
For salary of two supervisors, (if only two reservations, as recommended).	3, 600
For salary of clerk to superintending agent.	1, 500
For salary of two physicians, (\$1, 500 each)	3, 000
For salary of two blacksmith's, (\$900 each)	1, 800
For salary of two carpenters, (\$900 each)	1, 800
For salary of twelve laborers, (\$600 each).	7, 200
For salary of twelve female teachers, (\$240 each).	2, 880
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In addition to this, about \$60,000 for the purchase of Smith river, and \$40,000 for the Round valley improvements, if Nome-Lackee and Mendocino are not sold and the proceeds applied.

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The extraordinary rise in the price of every description of clothing and other supplies, and depreciation of the legal currency, render the estimate necessarily larger than it would be otherwise.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, Northern District, California.

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