

278 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 14.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, September 15, 1865.

Sir: In conformity with the requirements of the department with which I am connected, I have the honor to transmit to your office this my first annual report of the condition of Indian affairs within my superintendency.

Most of the time since entering upon the duties of my office has been employed in receiving the public property from Hon. Austin Wiley, my predecessor, and in visiting the different reservations, in company with the Hon. William Higby, one of the Committee on Indian Affairs, in his examination of the condition of the Indian service in this State.

Additional duties have been required of me by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in going to Hoopa valley, and, in connexion with the United States surveyor general and the Indian agent of that reservation, making an appraisement of the improvements of the settlers, as required by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1865; which duty has been performed, as I believe, with justice to the citizens, and will, I trust, meet with the approval of the honorable Secretary of the Interior.

In the discharge of those duties, which has occupied most of my time up to the present, and during which I have travelled over twenty-eight hundred miles, I have had the opportunity to become acquainted, by personal observation and information, with the wants and condition of the Indians on the different reservations, as well as those living in various parts of the State.

It gives me pleasure to inform the department that I have found the Indians, in the different portions of the State that I have visited, well disposed and peaceable. No fears of any further Indian troubles or difficulties need be entertained if the policy of colonization and subsisting the Indians on reservations is continued.

On the different reservations I found the Indians generally contented and satisfied, willing to engage in labor to provide for their own subsistence, in case they could be assured that the fruits of their industry would be used for their support and benefit, which I have to say has not been always the case.

There has been formerly in this State considerable difficulty attending the removal of the Indians to and retaining them on the different reservations. This trouble has arisen, in part, from an occasional failure of the crops, and from a deficiency in the supply of clothing and subsistence which they had a right to expect, and large promises have been made them to induce them to come in to the reservations, which promises have not been fulfilled.

I am pleased to notice a growing disposition among the Indians to remain and become permanently located on the reservations. They are beginning to see the necessity of, and feel the security they have in, obtaining subsistence and protection, which they could not have and obtain otherwise. Their former means of obtaining subsistence is rapidly passing away. Their lands, which heretofore supplied them with roots and seeds, are being ploughed by the husbandman. The oak and pine which gave them the acorn and nut are disappearing by the woodman's axe; fishermen occupy their fishing places, while before the unerring rifle of the backwoodsman their game, which gave them meat and skins for clothing, has passed away.

Many of the Indians have expressed a desire to come upon and remain on the reservations permanently as soon as provision can be made for their subsistence.

I have found the Indians on the reservations, as well as others, very destitute of clothing. The amount furnished them for the last three years has

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 279

been entirely inadequate to supply their wants and necessities. But few articles of clothing which they have were furnished by the government.

While the present prospect of subsisting the Indians is satisfactory, there is much to be done for their future improvement and welfare. In former years large amounts of money have been appropriated and expended in this State for the Indian service, but little remains in the way of buildings or improvements of any kind to indicate how the money has been applied. No permanent system of subsisting the Indians or improving them, either physically, morally, or intellectually, seems to have been adopted.

The many changes in the locations and the abandonment of reservations in this State have been very expensive in the removal of public property and of the Indians, and have been to them a source of very great dissatisfaction and disquietude.

I am fully of the opinion that the system of colonizing and subsisting the Indians on reservations is the only one that can be adopted successfully in this State, "considering the situation of the Indians and their relations to the citizens," and if properly conducted it will prove a real benefit to the Indians, and tend to a lasting and permanent peace between them and the citizens of the State.

To effect this desirable object, reservations should be permanently established on public lands, or on lands on which the government has absolute title and control; the claims of any citizens for improvements on such lands should be extinguished.

The policy of renting lands, which has been adopted, in part, in this State should be discontinued as soon as possible. To effect this object, an appropriation should be made either to purchase the lands now occupied as such, or to remove the Indians.

I believe that in this State the private lands on which the Indians are now located could be purchased at reasonable prices—at much less expense than would attend the removal of the public property and Indians to other reservations or new locations.

I would recommend that an appropriation be made for the purchase of the lands owned by private parties and now occupied as reservations at Tule river and Smith river. This being done, and a liberal appropriation for the purchase of stock cattle and hogs, and for permanent improvements in the way of buildings for the residence of the agents and employes and dwellings for the Indians, would prepare the way for making the different reservations in this superintendency to a great extent self-sustaining.

I would also recommend that an appropriation be made for building a school-house and employing a school teacher on each reservation. No efforts seem to have been made to educate or improve the moral or intellectual condition of the Indians in this State. While little can be done to change the habits and customs of the aged and elder Indians, those who are younger readily embrace the habits and customs of the whites, and if schools were established for their benefit would readily acquire the first rudiments of an English education.

Round Valley reservation, as surveyed and located, contains twenty-five thousand acres, and embraces all the arable land in the valley. Nearly half of this land is occupied by citizens, who claim to have entered upon and made their improvements before the survey and location of the land for reservation purposes.

I cannot too strongly recommend that a board of appraisers be appointed to make a valuation of those improvements made prior to the survey and location, and that an appropriation be made to pay the settlers a fair compensation for said improvements, and that the entire valley, with its extension as recommended by G. M. Hanson, late superintendent of the northern

280 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

district, be set apart and held for reservation purposes. The peculiar location of Round Valley is most excellent for an Indian reservation; its isolated position, fertility of soil, climate mild and salubrious, surrounded by mountains well adapted for pasturage, make it far superior to any location that has been or can be made in the State.

On the reservation proper, twenty-seven hundred acres of land are enclosed with an excellent rail fence, and fencing is being prepared to enclose three thousand acres in addition. Lands in cultivation, one thousand and fifty-seven acres; in wheat, corn, oats, and barley, nine hundred and fifty-five acres; in potatoes and vegetables, one hundred and two acres.

Crops light, except potatoes, which are an entire failure, owing to the late planting and severe drought. Estimated number of bushels of wheat raised this season, and on hand from last crop, ten thousand; of corn, five thousand; barley and oats, three thousand and sixteen. Vegetables in abundance, except potatoes.

Number of Indians on the reservation: Pitt river, three hundred and twenty; of the Wylachies, eighty; Ukies, three hundred; and Ouncows, two hundred and forty. Total, nine hundred and forty.

In addition to this number, I expect on the reservation next month three hundred and seventy Wylachies, Humboldt and Trinity Indians from Humboldt bay, now held as prisoners, as I have advised the military department that I am prepared to receive and provide for them at Round Valley.

Four hundred still remain, and are being subsisted at Mendocino, in charge of E. J. Whipple, an employé of Round Valley reservation. Crops have been raised at that station for their subsistence the present season. I intend to remove them and the public property to Round Valley as soon as practicable.

On my arrival at Round Valley, on my last visit, I found a delegation of some forty from the Clear Lake, Ukiah, and Redwood Indians, representing eight hundred of their people, who desire to come and remain on the reservation. I have instructed the agent that they be received and provided for as soon as materials can be obtained for their dwellings.

The prospect of abundant subsistence being provided on the reservation, and the difficulty of obtaining food as formerly obtained by the Indians, will induce them to come in as fast as they can be provided for.

No difficulty is experienced in obtaining all the labor from them necessary for farming or other purposes; they work willingly and cheerfully, and appear satisfied and contented. Preparations are being made for the erection of necessary buildings for the agent and employés, and for building a school-house. The buildings now on the reservation are erected of logs, and are of little value.

On taking charge of the public property there, I found the farm and personal property of A. P. Hotaling rented by Mr. Wiley, my predecessor, for the sum of three thousand three hundred and fifty dollars per annum, in gold coin or its equivalent, lease to expire the first of November next. I consider the rent paid very high, and the farm not wanted to produce the necessary subsistence for the Indians, and directed Captain Fairfield, the agent, to deliver to the lessor the farm and property on the expiration of the lease.

The number of cattle and calves on the reservation was represented by my predecessor to be five hundred and twenty-one, exclusive of the cows and work-cattle. They were ranging on the mountains and valleys in a circuit of some twenty miles in extent. As they were not collected, I only receipted to account for the number that could be found after due and diligent search had been made for them. I instructed the agent, immediately on my receiving the property, to employ one of the men in collecting the

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 281

cattle and bringing them in upon the pasture lands enclosed on the reservation. He reports at this date upwards of four hundred found, with a probability of finding a number more. As soon as the search is completed, the number found will, with the proper certificates, be forwarded.

Hoopa Valley reservation, recently located, is on the Trinity river, near its junction with the Klamath. It is sixteen miles in length and twelve in width, and the valley contains about twelve hundred acres. The land is not of the best quality, and will not, I think, produce more than will support the Indians now on the reservation, and those that will come in from the adjacent country. The Klamath Indians in the vicinity, numbering eighteen hundred, will, it is expected, most of them move to the reservation at an early day.

Possession was obtained of the improvements and land in the valley in February last, except the farm of Campbell and Garrett. This occasioned late planting of the crops, and the unusual drought in the valley caused almost an entire failure. Number of acres of wheat sowed, three hundred and twenty; bushels harvested, twenty-one hundred; acres of oats, eighty-two—a failure of the crop, mostly cut for hay; corn planted, thirty-six acres; potatoes, twenty-one acres, with fair crops; peas planted, sixteen acres—crop very light.

The Indians on the reservation number, at present, about six hundred and fifty. They work readily and willingly for their own subsistence, only requiring the assistance of an overseer to direct them in the labors necessary to cultivate and improve the reservation.

The location of this reservation, surrounded by mountains over which only by pack-trains can supplies for the subsistence of the Indians be transported, has required the expenditure of a large amount of money appropriated for the Indian service, and will continue to be expensive until grain can be raised in quantities sufficient to subsist the Indians without purchasing supplies.

On my visit to the reservation I found that a large quantity of flour would be needed to subsist the Indians until after harvest. I made arrangements with the military department for some twenty-three thousand pounds of flour for present use, to be returned after this year's crop is harvested, making a considerable saving to the Indian service, as flour at that time was selling in the valley at ten cents per pound in coin. The amount raised this season will not be sufficient, on account of the failure of the crop, as before stated, to replace the flour borrowed, furnish the reservation with seed, and subsist the Indians until the next crop is harvested.

Additional purchases of beef and flour will have to be made, upon which to support the Indians until next harvest, after which little money will be required in the way of purchase for subsistence.

On my arrival I found the reservation destitute of teams, except two yoke of oxen, teams of the citizens being hired by the day for farming purposes. I sent immediately to Smith River reservation for two teams, and on my visit to Tule River farm, I directed five additional teams to be sent from there. They have all arrived except two mules, which were left at Round Valley.

There has been some expense attending the transfer of these teams, but as a saving I thought that course to supply the reservation advisable. Some additional teams are needed, which will have to be purchased, and a considerable amount of funds will be necessary with which to purchase cattle and hogs.

Smith River reservation is located on a farm of twelve hundred acres, rented of Saville & Darby, at a quarterly rental of twelve hundred dollars, (\$1,200) payable in gold coin or its equivalent; also, adjoining land to the

282 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

amount of one hundred and eighty-seven acres is rented at four dollars per acre, payable also in gold, making the amount payable yearly for rent nineteen hundred and forty-eight dollars (\$1,948) in coin or its equivalent. This farm, with land adjoining, has been rented some five years.

I would recommend that the land required for the wants of the Indians be purchased from the owners, or an appropriation be made for the removal of the Indians and public property to Round Valley. I believe that a sufficient area could be purchased for a reservation, which would include all the lands necessary for agricultural and grazing purposes, with all the improvements, buildings, &c., required, with a broad outlet to the mouth of the river and the coast for fishing purposes, at a less cost than would attend the removal of the public property and the Indians to Round Valley, and the erection there of the necessary dwellings for their accommodation.

I find it necessary to continue still to lease the land, until provision is made for its purchase, or for the removal of the Indians.

The number of Indians at present on the reservation is seven hundred, consisting of Humboldts and Wylackies. They are industrious, well-disposed, and contented. Their numbers would be largely increased by additions from Smith river and Klamath river Indians, who live in the vicinity, and number about thirteen hundred, had the government a title to the land, and could they be assured of a permanent location of the reservation.

The number of acres of land in cultivation this year is three hundred and eighty-one. Of wheat and oats there are one hundred and sixty-five acres; of potatoes, peas and other vegetables, one hundred and sixty-three acres; of timothy, forty-three acres.

The crops are fair, except potatoes, which are much injured by the army worm. Abundance will be raised for subsistence the present year.

With the title to the land in the government, and a small sum for the purchase of stock cattle, this reservation should be made, in a short time, self-sustaining.

Tule River farm is in charge of G. L. Hoffman, agent appointed by Mr. Wentworth, late superintendent for the southern district, and continued up to the present.

This farm has been rented for reservation purposes for the last five years of Thomas P. Madden, at a present yearly rental of one thousand dollars, (\$1,000) and contains twelve hundred and eighty acres.

The number of Indians now being subsisted on this farm is eight hundred, mostly from Owens and Tule rivers. The general appearance and health of the Indians is good. They are willing to labor, and are contented.

The number of acres of wheat sown this season was three hundred and fifty, two hundred and fifty acres of which was an entire failure on account of the drought, it having been sown late and on upland; one hundred thousand pounds only having been harvested. Forty acres of barley were raised; crop very light, only producing thirty-five hundred pounds. Forty acres of corn; light crop anticipated. Thirty-four acres in sweet potatoes, beans and pumpkins, which promise a good crop.

Although the grain sown on this farm has suffered so much from the drought, I believe a sufficient amount has been raised to subsist the Indians until the next harvest. Besides the crops produced under the supervision of the agent, the Indians have raised some sixty thousand pounds of wheat and corn, on the lands of the farm which had been allowed them for their own use and cultivation.

The only buildings on the farm are an adobe house, unfurnished, which is used for the residence of the agent and employes, and two temporary sheds for the protection of the farming implements.

The lands owned by Mr. Madden could, I believe, be purchased at a fair

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 283

valuation, and that farm, in connexion with the public lands adjacent, would constitute a reservation sufficient in capacity and fertility to colonize and subsist all the Indians in the southern portion of the State, which it would be necessary to remove to a reservation. I would advise the purchase of the farm on the score of economy and policy. The Indians are satisfied with their present location, and the expense of removal and of improving a new place would far exceed the outlay required in the purchase of the land aforesaid.

As the lease of said farm expired on the first day of July last, I have thought it advisable, and have re-rented the place for eighteen months, at the rate of one thousand dollars per annum, which will give time for the raising and harvesting of a crop next year, and for either the purchase of the farm or the removal of the Indians.

In concluding my report, I cannot too strongly urge on the department the importance of making the reservations at Smith river and Tule river permanent, by the purchase of the land, or providing means for the removal of the Indians and public property to other reservations or new locations. If a removal is made from Smith river, it must be to Round Valley, as the reservation at Hoopa Valley will only subsist the Indians now there, and those that will probably come in from the vicinity.

In the southern part of the State a large and permanent reservation is required. The Indians are numerous, and their presence is becoming obnoxious to the citizens. A large number must be subsisted at government expense, or provided for on reservations. Their present means of subsistence is precarious, and as they will steal before they will starve, trouble and difficulty will arise which cannot be avoided unless provision is made for their removal or subsistence.

As regards the sanitary condition of the Indians in this superintendency, I would refer the honorable Commissioner to the accompanying report of Dr. P. Moffatt, physician on the Hoopa Valley reservation. His observations in reference to the Indians at that place will apply generally to the Indians on the other reservations and throughout the State. Dr. Moffatt was employed by my predecessor at one hundred dollars per month, and I have continued him at the same compensation.

Captain Fairfield, at Round Valley, is discharging the duties of physician on that reservation, in addition to his services as Indian agent. At Smith River and Tule River reservations no physicians are at present employed, and it is impossible to obtain competent ones at the compensation at present fixed by law.

I have not had time to visit the extreme southern portion of the State, and would refer the honorable Commissioner to the accompanying reports of Messrs. Stanley and Lovett, special agents appointed by Hon. Austin Wiley, my predecessor, for interesting information in regard to the Indians in that locality.

Number of Indians on the different reservations.

At Round Valley and Mendocino station.....	1, 340
At Humboldt bay, shortly expected at Round valley.....	370
At Hoopa Valley.....	650
At Smith river.....	700
At Tule river.....	800
Total.....	<u>3, 860</u>

Estimated number of Indians in the State not on reservations, from the best information is : In the northern part of the State, west of the Sacra-

284 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

mento river, thirteen thousand five hundred; in the southern part of the State and east of Sacramento river, sixteen thousand five hundred. Total number, thirty thousand. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant, &c.,

CHARLES MALTRY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.

Hon. D. W. COOLEY,
Com'r Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.