

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 15.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, September 15, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor in compliance with the requirements of the department to submit my second annual report of the condition of Indian affairs within my superintendency.

The accompanying reports of the several agents will exhibit statements in detail of the condition of the Indian service at the several agencies.

I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the faithful and efficient manner in which the several agents and employes have discharged their duties, the results of which have been, in part, the gradual and permanent improvement of the condition of the Indians, and the large and abundant harvests on the several reservations, which have been the results of the united labors of the employes and Indians.

Round Valley reservation, under charge of Agent Fairfield, has increased evidences of success and prosperity. The Indians at this agency, under the direction and supervision of the agent and employes, have performed a large amount of labor during the past year. They have procured from the adjacent mountains the timber and shingles, and erected a large frame barn 46 by 60 feet, two large frame granaries, one 24 by 24 feet, and one 30 by 30 feet, an addition to frame barn, (erected year previous,) of 24 by 25 feet. They have made 30,000 rails, enclosed 2,300 acres of land, (making the number of acres of land enclosed on the reservation with an excellent fence 5,000 acres,) and have put in cultivation 1,100 acres grain and vegetables.

The station at the Mendocino reservation, in-charge of E. J. Whipple, was discontinued the 31st of March last, the employes discharged, and the government property removed to Round valley. It is thought advisable that the Indians should remain at their present location for the time being; they desire to remain until the lands of the reservation shall have been sold by the government. At this locality they obtain large quantities of fish and clams, and many of them find employment at the lumber mills in the vicinity at fair wages, with which they obtain clothing; their presence is not obnoxious to the few settlers adjoining the reservation, nor is their labor required on the reservation at Round valley at present; as soon, however, as the interests of the service require it, they will be removed. They are under the supervision of the agent at Round valley, and will be furnished by him with such additional subsistence as they may require.

In October last, 342 Wiyackkers, Trinity and Eel River Indians, which were held as prisoners of war at Humboldt bay, were removed by the military authorities to Round valley, and placed in charge of the agent. During the winter and spring a number of the Trinity Indians, (advised and instigated by white men, who have located in the vicinity of the reservation, and are known as squaw men,) have left the reservation and returned to their former locations in Trinity county; they are that portion of the Trinity Indians who had become domesticated, and at the time of their being taken and held as prisoners they were, the most of them, in the employ of the whites. No measures have been taken by the agent up to the present time for their return.

By observation and information obtained during the past year, I must again urge upon the department the importance, and for the benefit of the Indian service, the necessity of the entire valley, with its extensions to the summit of the surrounding mountains, with boundaries as indicated in topographical map, (which I enclose with this report,) be set apart and held for reservation purposes. The settlers in the valley, who are entitled to, should receive a fair compensation for their improvements.

The mountain lands embraced within the boundaries designated on the accompanying map would be valuable to the reservation for pasturage, and invaluable inasmuch that a class of white men, (known as squaw men,) whose locations in the proximity of the reservations are their home and refuge, would be, by the boundaries, prevented from settling and locating where their connexions and influence with the Indians would be so deleterious to their welfare and the prosperity of the reservation.

A bill in relation to Round valley and other Indian reservations in northern California, introduced in the House of Representatives by Hon. John Bidwell, meets with my appro-

val, except the boundaries mentioned in the bill. The boundaries should, for the reasons above stated, be enlarged and extended to the summit of the mountains, as indicated in the map. These mountain lands cannot for many years be of any value to the government, except in connexion with the reservation, while if they are not included within the limits of the reservation they will be occupied by stock men, hunters, and squaw men, for the time being. Government stock will disappear, the Indians will be outraged by the abduction and stealing of their squaws, liquors will be furnished them clandestinely, and all of those evils to the reservation which have been and still continue to be the results of a close proximity of this class of people will not be abated.

The reservations of Mendocino and Some Lackee having been abandoned, I would recommend that the land embraced within said reservations be brought into market and disposed of for settlement at an early day. A large portion of the lands embraced within the Some Lackee reservation are well adapted for stock grazing and raising small grain, and the citizens are ready and anxious to purchase and occupy the lands as soon as they are offered for sale, and I believe it is the true policy of the government, and would be to the interest of the county and State in which they are located, that they be brought into market and offered for sale as soon as possible.

Mendocino reservation extends from the south bank of the Noyo river, north with the coast, to a point one and a half mile north of Belata creek, ten miles in length and three and a half miles in width. That portion of the reservation lying between the southern boundary and Pudden creek contains most of the government buildings and improvements; the land embraced within this boundary was found to be unproductive and not susceptible of cultivation with profit, and the agency was removed some three years since to the northern boundary on Belata creek. The public buildings and improvements above mentioned were, during my predecessor's administration, placed in care of Somers & Brown, (living at the mouth of the Noyo,) in whose care they are at present, without charge to the government; the buildings and improvements are unoccupied, and are rapidly going to decay.

During the administration of Superintendent Henley, a large and valuable steam lumber mill was erected on the reservation, on the north bank of the Noyo river, by McPherson & Co., with the consent of Superintendent Henley, and a number of dwellings have been erected on the reservation, in the immediate vicinity of said mill. I would recommend that provision be made, on the sale of those lands by the government, for McPherson & Co., and other settlers, who occupied and improved lands on the reservation by the consent and permission of said superintendent, that they be allowed to purchase the lands at a fair valuation.

The lands lying between Pudden creek and the northern boundary have been leased to E. J. Whipple for the period of eighteen months, from the 1st day of April last, at fifty dollars per month, payable quarterly, the lease subject to the approval of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and to any action that may be taken by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, or Congress, as to the sale or disposal of said lands. The lands embraced within this boundary contain some twenty-five hundred acres of fertile land, (one hundred and sixty acres of which has heretofore been cultivated;) the balance of the land is sandy barrens, affording pasturage to a limited extent; on these lands is a dwelling-house, barn, and stable. It was thought by the superintendent that it would be more for the interests of the Indian service to lease the said lands at a fair rental, with the conditions as above, than to abandon them entirely, or place a person in charge of the buildings and improvements at the expense of the government. It would be to the interest of the department for the lands on the reservation to be surveyed and brought into market at an early day.

The removal of a large number of Indians from Red Wood and Potter valley to Round valley has been in contemplation for some time; the agent has postponed their removal until after harvest, as many of the Indians are absent from those localities, employed by farmers in the grain and potato fields.

Hoopa Valley reservation, in charge of Agent Stockton: The affairs of this agency have much improved, and have been well conducted by the agent during the past year. The failure of the crops last year, on account of the drought and late planting, rendered it necessary that some purchases of subsistence should be made to supply the necessities of the Indians until harvest; this, with the hire of some additional teams necessary for sowing and planting the crops, has increased the expenses on this reservation to a small extent.

The excellent crops of grain and vegetables which have been raised on the reservation the present season give abundant supply for all the wants of the Indians, dispel any fears in the future, and give the assurance that the lands on the reservation, when all brought into cultivation, can supply all demands in the way of subsistence, and produce a surplus which would go far towards making the reservation self-sustaining.

The Indians at this agency have a strong attachment for this valley, and are contented and well disposed. The confidence of the citizens in the permanent settlement of Indian troubles and difficulties in this portion of the State is fully established, and the farms and mining claims, which were abandoned during the aforesaid difficulties, are being reoccupied, and the country is rapidly filling up with a permanent and enterprising population.

The receipt of the money appropriated by Congress to pay the settlers for their improvements in Hoopa valley, by the superintendent has given great satisfaction and strengthened the confidence already felt that Indian depredations are no more to be feared or expected.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. 93

Smith River reservation is at present in charge of George Kingsbury, special agent, appointed temporarily to fill the vacancy of Agent Bryson, removed.

The crops raised on this reservation the present year are good, and the amount of grain and vegetables will, I think, be considerably in excess of the wants of the Indians for subsistence. But little can be realized at this agency by the sale of surplus produce, for the want of a market. The citizens raise an abundance to supply the demand in the country, and the high rates of freight (owing to the dangers of navigation during the fall and winter months preventing transportation to San Francisco) leaves but a small margin after paying expenses.

Many of the Indians on this reservation have recently become dissatisfied and discontented: the reason they give for this state of feeling, is that they think government will not purchase the lands on which they are at present located, and they apprehend they will be removed to some location not so desirable. Quite a number have recently left the reservation, with the intention, as is supposed, not to return. The agent, with the aid of the military, is endeavoring to capture them and compel them to return.

In consequence of this dissatisfaction existing among the Indians, the prospective condition of the reservation, which, under the present condition of affairs, cannot be successful, the additional expense and difficulties attending the management of a reservation under these difficulties, and on lands rented of private individuals, I must, looking to the interest of the service and of the Indians, recommend the abandonment of the reservation as soon as practicable, and the removal of the Indians and government property to Round Valley reservation: this measure, if approved by the department, cannot well be carried into effect before the 1st of May. An appropriation of five thousand dollars will be necessary to defray the expenses of removal: this amount will be saved the government in one year in the rent of lands and pay of agent and employes at said reservation. I recommend the removal of the Indians aforesaid to Round valley, for the reason that they will be better satisfied and contented on this reservation than at Hoopa valley. At the Round Valley reservation are many of the Humboldt and Wyalackee Indians, portions of the same tribe now at Smith river, speaking the same language, and their tribal relations are such that it would be to the interests of the service, as well as an act of justice and humanity to them, that they be united; and, further, whatever changes made in the northern portion of the State, in the removal of the Indians, should be done, in view of making, as soon as the public interest will permit, Round valley the only Indian reservation in that portion of the State.

The lands now occupied and cultivated for reservation purposes are under lease until the 1st of January next. Should it be determined by the department that the removal be made next spring, the leases of the lands now occupied should not be renewed—only the farm of ~~Smith River~~ ^{Smith River} ~~farm~~, on which the Indians are located, and this only for six months. A considerable portion of the government property will not pay for its removal; the superintendent should be authorized, in the event of a removal, to have such property appraised and sold for the benefit of the Indian service.

Tule River farm: This reservation is under the supervision of Agent Hoffman, whose management of the affairs has been as efficient as could be expected on an agency located on rented lands.

The Indians at this agency, under the direction of the agent and employes, have, during the past year, performed a large amount of labor: they have, in addition to cultivating the lands, constructed a water-ditch several miles in length, bringing in the waters of Tule river, for irrigation purposes, on to the most elevated portion of the farm, and the public lands connected therewith, and by which good crops of grain and vegetables can be raised in seasons of the most severe drought.

They have also opened a wagon road, twenty-five miles in length, from the reservation into the mountains to the timbered region, where they can obtain all the fencing and building materials that may be required for the use of the reservation: they have constructed adobe houses sufficient to protect themselves and families from the inclemency of the weather and to make them comfortable, and also have enclosed, with a brush fence, several hundred acres of public lands adjoining the rented farm for pasturage and cultivation.

The Indians perform the labor required of them cheerfully, as the amount of labor performed on this farm the past year abundantly proves, but under the present condition of the reservation, on rented lands, their labor can only be effective so far as to provide for their subsistence. Could the government purchase the lands, which I have recommended in former communications to the department, their labors could be made effective in permanent improvements, in the erection of buildings, fencing, and planting of orchards, vineyards, &c.

I cannot agree with Agent Hoffman that no money should be expended in the way of schools and religious instruction. I am fully satisfied that, with the reservation permanently established on lands owned by the government, necessary buildings erected and improvements made, and proper and competent teachers employed, (a man and his wife would be desirable,) much good and lasting benefit to the young Indians, both male and female, would be effected.

If no other consideration than dollars and cents was involved in the purchase of this farm, on which the Indians are now located, it would be to the interest of the government to purchase the lands, as the amount would be saved in three years in rents paid and the

91 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

increased value of the farm arising from the erection of buildings and construction of permanent improvements.

The Mission Indians in southern California, estimated, number 3,300. The condition of these Indians, and what I consider was the interest and duty of the government towards them, was made the subject of a special communication to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in her date of 13th April last, on my return from a visit to their locality. Subsequent observation and information confirms me in the views then expressed, and I cannot too thoroughly recommend that provision be made for their future and permanent location and settlement.

The Indians in this superintendency, not including those on the reservations and the Mission Indians, number in the aggregate 19,300, estimated from the most reliable information obtained. They are to be found in every county, but are the most numerous in the extreme southern and northern portions of the State.

The Comanches, Yumas, and Mojaves, numbering 2,600, reside in the south, on and near the Colorado river. They are peaceable and inoffensive, cultivating the soil to some extent, and furnishing wood in quantities to the steamers navigating said river. Their isolated location, peaceable and quiet demeanor towards the citizens, and the mutual advantages derived from furnishing the steamers with wood, suggests the policy that they remain as at present located. They should receive from the government some agricultural implements; for which they have made a request.

The Chemihumas and Pi-Utes, 1,800 in number, reside and roam over that section of the State bordering upon the Mojave river and its confluence with the Colorado river. They are more wild and savage than any of the Indians of California. Several depredations on travellers and settlers have been committed recently in their vicinity, in stealing and driving off stock, and several persons have been murdered, and it is believed that those Indians are the aggressors. As soon as measures may be taken and consummated for the permanent establishment of a reservation in the southern part of the State, those Indians should be collected by the military and placed thereon; the present condition of the reservation at Tule River farm is such that this desirable object cannot be executed.

East of the Coast Range, on Owen's river and vicinity, are the Owen's River and Casa Indians, in number 1,500; they have the same characteristics as the Chemihumas and Pi-Utes: their removal to a reservation in early ~~they is desirable~~ ^{is desirable}.

In the north the Klamath Indians, residing on the Klamath river, are the most numerous in that portion of the State; they number 1,800. They are comparatively isolated, and have preserved their tribal identity. They obtain their subsistence mostly from fish caught in the river, on the banks of which they reside, and are peaceable and well-disposed. Until that section of the State in which they reside is thickly settled by the whites, they should remain as at present located, as they are averse to being removed.

The Indians other than those before mentioned reside in various sections of the State, in small communities; in some localities their presence is obnoxious to the citizens; in others they are tolerated on account of the labor they perform for the whites; their condition is deplorable and pitiful in the extreme; they are demoralized both physically and morally. This condition, lamentable as it is, is the result of their intercourse and contact with the lowest class of the white population, and they more readily embrace the vices of civilization because it is only with its vices they come in contact. Place the Indian in contact with the good, the moral, and religious, and he will yield to the influence with which he is surrounded, and would imbibe good and correct principles. The Indians in this superintendency are placed, by circumstances over which they had no control, under peculiar hardships. Originally the owners and rightful possessors of the lands in this fair commonwealth, they are now the helpless wards of a government which recognizes no right or title which they may have originally possessed. With no lands, no treaties, no annuities, no power or means of extricating themselves from the influences with which they are surrounded, and which are rapidly and surely working their destruction and extermination, and surrounded by a community whose sentiments, if not expressed in words, are in actions and influence, the case of the poor Indian is a hopeless one, and before the march of civilization he must give way; and instead of civilization reaching out a helping hand to elevate and redeem, it is used to hasten his destruction and effect his entire demoralization and degradation.

How is the Indian to be raised from his degradation and vices, and be brought to participate in and enjoy the influences of Christian civilization? He must be placed in a position away from evil influences and under the control of persons whose example and instruction would teach him to avoid evil habits and embrace good ones.

To effect this desirable and humane object, the Indians must be placed on reservations removed as far as possible from all vicious and demoralizing influences. Agents in charge and employes should, if possible, be men of families, residing on the reservations, where the social habits and domestic comforts of civilization would be a daily example for the Indians, both male and female. The pay of employes should be sufficient to engage men with wives or small families to locate on the reservations. One hundred dollars per month for the service of a man and his wife should be allowed by the government, the man to be en-

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

95

played with the Indians in teaching them and directing them in their labors, and his wife in teaching the Indian women sewing and housewifery, and habits of cleanliness and morality.

Manual labor schools should be established, and placed in charge of a man and his wife of a moral and religious character; then the Indian youth of both sexes should be taught. The first rudiments taught should be labor, industry: when this instruction is properly instituted, moral and intellectual instruction will more easily be inculcated.

I can conceive of no policy, except the foregoing, by which the Indians of this State can be really and permanently benefited; but little can be effected in improving the morals and changing the habits and customs of elder Indians. The young of both sexes, however, receive instructions readily, and with those should the efforts for reformation and moral improvement be applied and directed. In the county of Klamath, in which the Hoopa Valley reservation is located, are one hundred half-breed children, from three to ten years of age. Several of the citizens have expressed a desire that a school should be established on that reservation, where those half-breeds could be taught, and receive the advantages and blessings of civilization so far as they can be applied to their peculiar condition.

The reservations at Round valley and Hoopa valley now present inviting fields of labor in this direction. Here are hundreds of children in a land of churches, of Christianity, and civilization, whose moral degradation is as low as those of any people the most degraded, and shall there be no efforts made to elevate and reclaim them from this condition? Our common humanity requires that the effort should be made, and Christianity guarantees success if the efforts are made under her guidance and influence.

So far as regards the present and prospective condition of the reservation, in respect to subsistence, improvement, and good order, it is as good as could be expected, and much better than was anticipated one year since; the granaries at Round valley are full to overflowing, and abundance at all the other reservations.

The prompt remittance of funds by the department at Washington, on the requisitions of the superintendent, and the prompt payment of all liabilities incurred for the Indian service, has placed the credit of the Indian department, in this State, in a more favorable position than it has heretofore attained.

The passage of the bill No. 572, introduced by Hon. James Bidwell, in relation to Round valley and other Indian reservations in northern California, with enlarged boundaries, and the purchase of the Madden farm, at Tule river, on which the Indians are now located, would be all that would be required to make the reservations permanent and a success, and which would insure a gradual decrease in the appropriations for the Indian service in this State.

The assistance and co-operation of the military officers stationed in this State has been freely and cordially given, whenever desired, in assisting the officers of this superintendency in the discharge of their duties.

A statistical return of farming on the several agencies, and report of the number of Indians in the California superintendency, please find accompanying this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES MALTBY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, California.

Hon. D. N. COOLEY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.