
No. 45½.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, October 3, 1864.

SIR: Your communication, dated August 29, 1864, enclosing a draught of the agreement made by you with the lately hostile Indians of the Trinity river, with the sketch of the situation of and settlements in the Hoopa valley, and the notice issued by you to the settlers, under date of —, is received and duly considered.

From your description of the valley thus selected for a reservation, its fertility, and consequent capability to sustain the people proposed to be placed upon it, its isolation from the white settlements, and the willingness expressed by the Indians to acquiesce in the arrangements, and confine themselves to the locality selected, I am induced to approve of your action, and trust that great good will result to the Indians, as well as to the whites, by this close of an

expensive course of hostilities, and the consequent concentration of the Indians at a point where they can be controlled, and where measures may be adopted to improve their condition. I return herewith a copy of the agreement, as forwarded by you, with certain additions, suggested by the Secretary of the Interior, the document in this amended form meeting with his approval.

The relations of the government of the United States to the Indians of California do not contemplate treaties with those Indians, to be submitted by the President to the Senate for confirmation; but as it is deemed advisable to have the chiefs and leading men of the tribes in question subscribe their hands to a document which shall fully commit them hereafter, you will, after explaining to them the nature of the additions or alterations now suggested, as being intended solely for their benefit, cause a copy to be signed by them, and forward it to this office.

Under the provisions of section 2 of chapter 48 of the laws of 1864, you will notice that, before payment can be made for any improvements made by white persons lawfully upon lands which it is deemed necessary to set apart for the Indians, in the establishment of the four authorized reservations, a fair valuation of the said improvements must be made, and contracts entered into for the purchase of the same; which valuation and contracts must be reported to and approved by Congress and an appropriation made for payment. In consequence of the great distance of your field of labor, and the length of time occupied in communicating by letter, and in order that the arrangement with the Indians may as soon as possible be consummated to the satisfaction of all parties, upon consultation with the Secretary of the Interior I am directed to authorize you to appoint not exceeding three discreet persons, at a compensation not to exceed five dollars per day, besides their necessary travelling expenses, who are to proceed without delay to make a just and fair valuation of the improvements referred to, and to forward this report through you at the earliest day practicable. I cannot too strongly urge upon you the necessity of great care in the selection of these appraisers, who should be disinterested and honest men, capable of doing their business properly, and earnestly devoted to the interests of the government, while willing to do the settlers justice. I call your special attention to this point, not only from a general desire to impress upon you the necessity of economy in all of the operations committed to your charge, but because any appearance of extravagance in estimating the value of these particular improvements will, in all probability, result in a failure to receive the approval of Congress; and thus the whole arrangement, which now seems so favorable, will fall to the ground.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding on this point, and that the settlers may be prevented from making such an extravagant estimate of the value of their improvements as to defeat the proposed arrangement, you will take immediate occasion to caution them on this subject, and will instruct the appraisers appointed by you to inform the claimants that the approval by Congress of any contracts made with them, and the appropriation of funds to pay for the improvements, depend greatly upon their valuation appearing to be reasonable; and in order that the claims may be laid before Congress with greater clearness, and in better condition for approval, you will direct the appraisers to make their report in such detail as to individual cases as to enable members to form some judgment of the value of each item of the improvements.

The establishment of the Hoopa Valley reservation, if approved, of course contemplates the abandonment of that at Mendocino, as but four are authorized, and it is understood from your communication of later date than the one to which this is a special reply, that the Indians upon the latter reservation are to be removed this fall to Round valley.

You will please take special care in the description of the boundaries of the proposed reservation at Hoopa valley, so that its proper limits may be of record

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in this office and the General Land Office, when approved by the President of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

AUSTIN WILEY, Esq.,

Sup't Indian Affairs, San Francisco, California.
