
CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 19.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, October 10, 1868.

SIR: In making my second annual report I have been delayed partially by want of statistics and reports from the agents, and partially by urgent visits to the reservations. Hoopa Valley has demanded my especial attention, and it has been absolutely necessary to spend much time there in settling difficulties among the Indians, and investigating charges of mismanagement made against the agent through newspapers and anonymous letters. I find most of the charges loose and indefinite, and

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I am satisfied that many of them are without the slightest foundation in fact. Agent Pratt has evidently worked very hard for the success of the reservation, and for the general welfare of the Indians; but he appears to be extremely unpopular, and meets with strong opposition from outsiders. The settlers in the neighboring country are very bitter in their hostility to him, and I think, in many instances, have resorted to falsehood and misrepresentation with a view to effect his removal. I regret to say that many of the officers and soldiers at Camp Gaston have labored with unwonted zeal to prejudice the Indians and white settlers against Mr. Pratt, and I firmly believe had it not been for his most excellent and amiable wife (whom they all respect) his life would have been in constant peril. Mrs. Pratt is a noble, brave, and generous woman; she labors assiduously in cutting and making up clothing for Indians, and instructing the squaws in the various branches of industry, so essential to their civilization, comfort, and well-being. The Indians are well clothed and fed on all the reservations of the State, and I believe are peaceably inclined toward the white population. At Hoopa valley they have many little feuds among themselves, and some between reservation Indians and scattering bands that belong to no reservation. Their mode of settling difficulties is to kill their enemies at the first favorable opportunity, and then, if they wish to avoid a similar fate, a settlement is made with the relatives of the deceased, and the dead Indians are paid for according to their rank and station. This payment is made in Indian money, or "*ala-co-check*," or, perhaps, in white deer skins or woodpeckers' heads. Then all are supposed to be friendly, and they have their appropriate dance over it. It is useless to interfere with these settlements, or attempt to discourage them. The strict penalties of the law cannot be enforced in any of the northern counties of this State for killing an Indian, whether the killing be done by a white man or an Indian.

At Hoopa valley about twenty of the most prominent reservation Indians have been killed by their own class within the last year and a half, and one very prominent chief was killed by a white man. A soldier at camp Gaston last winter killed "*Ceronalto John*." It was regarded at the time as a cold-blooded murder, and serious apprehensions of an immediate outbreak were felt by many of the white population.

The most that I was able to do was to procure an order from headquarters and have the accused brought to San Francisco. From my observation and experience in Indian affairs, I do not believe it good policy to have a military station nearer than ten miles of an Indian reservation. When the soldiers and Indians are continually together both become demoralized.

The products of all the reservations are abundant this season, as you will see from an examination of the farming statistics made out by the several agents and already forwarded to your office. A more particular reference to them at this time will hardly be necessary for the information of the department, but I will give you a schedule of the most important articles produced on each reservation. At Hoopa valley 6,500 bushels of wheat have been raised, threshed, and carefully stored; 300 bushels of corn; 3,000 bushels of apples; 1,000 bushels of peaches; about 2,000 pounds have been dried for future use. There were also 1,600 bushels of oats raised; 50 bushels of barley; 2,000 bushels of potatoes, and 225 tons of hay.

At Round valley the products are still more abundant, given in by the agent as follows: Wheat, 7,140 bushels; corn, 8,000; oats, 2,500; barley, 2,025; potatoes, 10,000; turnips, 1,500; hay 320 tons, &c.

At Smith river the products are given as follows: Wheat, 1,500 bush-

els; corn, 25; oats, 5,000; potatoes, 5,000; turnips, 200; peas, 750; carrots, 150; hay, 80 tons.

These are estimates made by the agent before the harvest, and since the harvest I am informed by Mr. Orman that the wheat and oats did not turn out as well as anticipated, on account of the damp, foggy weather. The grain was struck with rust and mildew before it fully matured.

The Tule river Indian farm has been remarkably fruitful this season, only about 350 acres cultivated, producing 2,055 bushels of wheat; 400 bushels of corn; 36 bushels of rye; 1,281 bushels of barley; 30 bushels of potatoes; 50 bushels of turnips, and 75 tons of hay.

The stock of cattle at Round valley and Hoopa valley is gradually increasing. We allow no calves or cows to be killed. We raise large numbers of hogs, and feed the Indians on pork and bacon through the winter, at which time cattle are usually unfit to kill.

At Hoopa we buy beef for the Indians during the farming and harvesting, so as to kill as few of the reservation cattle as possible when hurried with work.

Within the last six months 150 straggling Indians have been collected and provided with horses on the Round valley reserve and I am in hopes to gather in many more. I regret exceedingly that Congress did not see fit to appropriate the \$5,000 I asked for to defray the expense of removing the Smith river Indians, and incidentally to gather in the 150 (or thereabouts) who have escaped from Smith's river within the last three or four years, and gone back to their old haunts in the mountains. The appropriation of \$3,500 in currency is entirely inadequate. I may possibly be able to remove those now on Smith river farm for that sum, but I am anxious to gather in all that properly belong there, as their relatives will be much more contented to remain with them.

The number of Indians at Smith river has decreased, not only by escapes but by severe sickness among them; measles, diarrhoea, and other epidemics. I have not yet been informed of any cases of small-pox among them, though several cases have occurred in the immediate vicinity. I shall avail myself of the earliest practicable opportunity to remove those Indians to Hoopa and Round valley after I am placed in funds to defray the necessary expense.

If I succeed I shall have reason to congratulate myself and the department upon having accomplished a work of great importance to the Indian service of California. This move will greatly reduce the expense of Indian affairs in the northern portion of the State, and I hope will enable us to do more for the mission Indians in the extreme southern portion of the State. Immigrants from Texas and other border States are rapidly settling in among the mission Indians, and robbing them of their old homes, which they have occupied for more than half a century.

The Indians of California are becoming more and more anxious for a permanent home.

I have men now engaged in splitting out stakes and shingles and building a large number of Indian houses at Hoopa valley for the Smith river Indians and such others as I can collect together.

A high sense of duty compels me to repeat my recommendation of last year for the purchase of the Madden farm at Tule river. The products of this year clearly demonstrate the wisdom of such a purchase. Real estate in the whole southern portion of the State is rapidly advancing. In less than three years the Madden farm will be worth double the price now asked for it. It is unquestionably the best and most fruitful tract of land in Tulare county. The cost of fencing is so great that but a small portion of it has been cultivated heretofore. Much more could

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be enclosed and many scattered bands of Indians brought in and sustained. The Indians would cheerfully go there if it were made a permanent reservation. I had cherished the hope that some appropriation would be made by the late session of Congress to enable me to establish a reservation for the Mission Indians in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino counties.

I have instructed Special Agent Stanly to gather as many as he can at San Pascual and Pala. The Indians have owned that land for thirty-four years and have occupied it for more than half a century. It is my intention to aid them with seed and implements of husbandry, and also to make as fair a distribution of blankets and clothing among them as my limited appropriation will warrant. In my special report of December 6, 1867, I suggested the propriety of having San Pascual valley and Pala set apart as a reservation for the Mission Indians, and in my letter to you, dated the 15th day of July last, I asked for instructions in reference to a survey, and as yet have received none.

Real estate in that section is much sought after, and the country is being rapidly settled up; it is hardly to be expected that the Indians can retain their old homes much longer unless something is done by the government to protect them. The grants given to the Indians under the secularization laws have never been presented to the Board of Land Commissioners, organized to settle private land claims in California, consequently the white settlers pay very little attention to their claims.

Some immediate steps will be absolutely necessary to protect the Indians in their rights and to prevent the interference of the whites.

I shall feel greatly obliged to you for any instructions you may see fit to give me on the subject.

I think an official survey of those Indian lands should be made without delay, and an order made withdrawing them from sale or entry and setting them apart as a permanent home for the Mission Indians, not merely for such as now reside there but also for such as may be collected from the surrounding country.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. C. WHITING,
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Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
