
SCOTT'S VALLEY, CALIFORNIA,
November 4, 1851.

SIR: The undersigned, citizens of the United States residing upon and cultivating lands in this valley, beg leave respectfully to solicit intervention in their behalf, under the following circumstances:

We were among the earliest settlers of this part of the State, having emigrated here at a time when there were no permanent improvements, and when the limited number of whites in the country rendered our residence dangerous. Since our arrival we have been engaged in opening the mines, in prospecting and digging for gold, and have shared in the various enterprises commenced for the improvement of our district. The money which we had hardly earned, amidst toil and suffering, we had to a great extent invested in the purchase of what we believed would prove pre-emption rights to land taken up by actual settlers, and had ourselves prepared to cultivate it. We have thus expended in the purchase of our claims, and improvements put upon them, (viz: ourselves and the original proprietors—viz: three of the largest frame houses in this district,) near fourteen thousand dollars. This we did without the most remote suspicion that the points selected by us would fall within any reservation, or be subject to other than the usual conditions. Within a few days, however, Colonel McKee, the Indian agent for this district, has apprized us of his intention to reserve a portion of

S. Doc. 4.

this valley; and to-day, by the treaty concluded in this valley, has extended it over the lands occupied by us. Acquiescing, as we do fully, in the right of the government to pursue this course, and admitting that its agent has acted with a proper exercise of his judgment in the fulfilment of his duties, we yet think that, under the circumstances, we are entitled to some consideration. Public policy undoubtedly indicates, in the encouragement of settlers, the speediest, the surest, and the cheapest mode of securing the possession and maintaining the peace of a remote territory like our State; and the action of Congress, as well as the tone of public feeling in the Union, has assured us that in our case it would be extended. Our neighbors of Oregon have received gratuitously liberal grants of land without reference to the previous extinction of the Indian title, and we believe ourselves to be not behind them in good service. The time fixed by the treaty for the abandonment of our houses, the first of June next, deprives us of any advantage to be obtained from the incoming crop, for which we had made preparation, and cuts us off from the benefit of travel, which in these mountains can only occur during the summer season; we are, therefore, compelled either to remove at an inclement season of the year, or to lose the time yet left us for remaining. As the treaty will pass through your office for ratification, and the estimates for expenditures under it will proceed from you, we respectfully request that the appropriations asked for may be made to cover the losses of ourselves, and others in like situation, and that the influence of the department will be lent for our relief.

We are, sir, your obedient servants,

B. H. JOHNSON.
M. H. HOAGLAND.
F. H. McKINNEY.
L. C. ROGERS.
J. H. CREEL.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.