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MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the colonization of the California Indians.

FEBRUARY 7, 1855.—Read, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

I communicate to Congress, herewith, a letter and accompanying papers from the Secretary of the Interior, dated the 5th instant, on the subject of the colonization of the Indians in the State of California, and recommend that the appropriation therein asked for may be made.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *February 7, 1855.*

COLONIZATION OF CALIFORNIA INDIANS.

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OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, December 18, 1851.

SIR: Referring to my estimate of the 14th September for the current expenses of the Indian department within this superintendency, for the year commencing 1st July, 1855, I beg leave now to make a supplemental estimate for two additional reservations:

For two interpreters, one for each reservation, at \$150 per month.....	\$3,600 00
For two physicians, one for each reservation, at \$150 per month.....	3,600 00
For two sub-agents, one for each reservation, at \$1,500 per annum.....	3,000 00
For twenty laborers, ten for each reservation, at \$75 per month.....	18,000 00
For two blacksmiths, one for each reservation, at \$100 per month.....	2,400 00
For two carpenters, one for each reservation, at \$100 per month.....	2,400 00
For travelling expenses of superintendent and attendants..	3,000 00
For general incidental and contingent expenses, to include presents to Indians and visitors to superintendent.....	5,000 00
For compensation of agents to visit the various tribes and negotiate for their removal to the reserves.....	5,000 00
For the purchase of oxen, mules, agricultural implements, lumber for building, and provisions for the first six months, for each, \$40,000.....	80,000 00
For the purchase of 500 head of breeding cattle for each reservation, at \$40 per head.....	40,000 00
For subsistence, clothing, blankets, and removal of Indians.....	34,000 00

It will be observed that in the foregoing estimates I have reduced the compensation of the interpreters, physicians, carpenters, blacksmiths, and laborers. I was governed in my former estimates somewhat by the prices paid by my predecessor, but experience has shown me that I can procure the service at lower rates. I am confident of being able to make some retrenchment upon the present estimates. I make this estimate in accordance with my own views of the importance of the subject, in conformity with the wishes of our congressional delegation, and at the earnest solicitation of a large number of our citizens, who have great anxiety that the Indians shall, at as early a day as possible, be withdrawn from their present contact with the white inhabitants, and placed in a position where they can be provided for according to the present intentions of the government.

The reasons in favor of increasing the number of reserves will be obvious upon a little investigation. The State is nearly one thousand miles in length, and from two to three hundred in breadth. The Indians (their number is not known, but certainly fifty and possibly one hundred thousand) are scattered in small tribes over its entire area. The reluctance of the Indian to remove far from his old home is well

known; whilst he will go willingly to a reserve within the region whereupon he has hunted and fished, nothing but force can take him beyond that. The expenses, too, of removing the Indians to five instead of three reservations would be greatly diminished, and the whole work of colonizing the Indians of California would be completed in a much shorter period.

The above estimates will establish the reservations, and put them in successful operation. This, it will be observed, will be needed but for one year, for the succeeding year the appropriation need not be more than half that amount, and afterwards the appropriation may still be reduced, until the reserves shall become self-sustaining establishments.

The location of the reserves should, in my opinion, be: 1st, the Tejon for the south; 2d, the Noome Lacke for the valley of the Sacramento; 3d, for the coast Indians, the location should be between the Klamath and the head waters of the Russian river; 4th, in the vicinity of Noble's Pass; the 5th, east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, about the 35° of latitude, and beyond the limits of the States; to which place it should, in my opinion, be the ultimate object of the government to remove all the tribes, and thus finally to rid the State entirely of this class of population, and place them in a country where it is probable that even the restless spirit of immigration would not soon reach or disturb them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. HENLY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.