

To Hon. J. W. Denver,

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE, the undersigned residents of Humboldt county, California, having permanent interests therein, respectfully solicit your interference to prevent the execution of a measure most injurious, not only to private interests and rights, but also to the settlement and improvement of this section of California.

We allude to the intention of the General Government, as we have been informed by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California, to extend the Mendocino Indian Reservation so as to include a large tract of land situate on the Pacific, extending in breadth three miles from the coast, and northwardly into this county, to a line four miles North of the mouth of Mattole River.

We would respectfully represent that this alleged extension embraces within its limits some of the most valuable lands within this county, a large portion of which is highly estimated for its adaptation to the raising of stock, and a part because of its great fertility and mildness of climate, most desirable for general farming purposes.

That it includes settlements, whereon are several hundred head of stock, besides land under culture, made near the Mattole, before such an intention on the part of the General Government was announced, and without any idea or suspicion that such measure was contemplated.

That it is upon the confines of other settled parts of our county, and nothing but the apprehension of such reservation in their vicinity prevents it being densely occupied.

That this extensive tract is upon the most direct, expeditious and economical coast route, having reference to the wants of present and future settlements on the coast be-

direct, expeditious and economical route, having reference to the wants of present and future settlements on the coast between San Francisco and this county for postal and other purposes, and that the facilities necessary to be given for such purposes will render nugatory the objects of Government in making the Reservation, or else people of this section will be deprived of the usual means of communication and business necessary to them.

It is also respectfully suggested whether, with a large Reservation on our North, on the Klamath, with another on our East, and if not within near to our county line, there can be any necessity for this extension into our county, so near to those already established, and if there be no such imperious necessity whether it is not grossly unjust to retard the settlement and improvement of this important section by the establishment of such a nuisance in our midst.

Since the announcement of this intention on the part of Government, and the appearance upon the alleged extension of persons calling themselves Government Agents, nothing has been done to carry out the purposes of a Reservation; nothing has been done for the benefit of the Indians; nothing has been done to evidence the intention of Government regarding it. The log shanty erected and few acres cultivated look more like the manoeuvres of some speculating squatter than the labors of an honest settler and certainly have no resemblance to the efforts of a liberal Government to execute a philanthropic design. It has been a continual source of annoyance and irritation in the neighborhood, and has done more to create disturbance than promote peace between the settlers and Indians.

Knowing your acquaintance with this county, its people, its situation and necessities we have been less particular in the statement of our grievances than we would have been to another not so well informed, and we rely upon your well known love of justice to obtain from government a speedy abandonment of their alleged intention in this respect if, indeed, any such were ever intended. For this your petitioners will ever pray.

