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recommend the abandonment and sale of Nome Lackee reservation; and the same recommendations I have frequently made in regard to the

MENDOCINO RESERVATION.

This place is situated immediately on the coast, too much exposed to the cold winds to produce either wheat or corn to much advantage.

The saw-mills at the mouth of the No Zó river, contiguous to the Indian lands and settlements, require a large number of laboring white men, who have thus far proven a great annoyance to the Indian service at Mendocino, and the number of Indians, before a recent stampede among them, was said to have been about 1,400, all of whom ought to be removed; the coast Indians to Smith River valley, and interior Indians to Round valley.

The money that would be realized from the sale of these two Indian reservations would go far toward the payment of the settlers for their farms in Round and Smith River valleys, so that the money appropriated by Congress to pay the settlers for these farms would soon be returned, the Indians provided with good homes, secure from the intrusions of white men, and the government saved the expense of keeping one-half of the employes and one-half of the troops on these reservations.

The cattle, horses, mules, farming tools, teams, &c., &c., to be removed to the reservations with the Indians—to the Smith River and Round valley reserves.

The superintending agent certainly feels a great desire to see the Indian service prosper under his charge in this part of California, but it is utterly impossible that such can be the case without a larger appropriation of money than has been made for several years past. To provide clothing, beef and milk cattle, farming tools, teams, &c., &c., it requires a large amount of money for about 7,000 Indians, which I now have on all the reservations, to provide for; and unless they are provided for to a greater extent it will be impossible to keep them on any reservation; and if, at the ensuing session of Congress, nothing should be done better than has been done for the last two or three years, the Indian cause in California must die upon the hands of the present administration, and I have no anxiety whatever to participate in its funeral rites. The aggregate amount necessary to the Indian service during the ensuing fiscal year, ending 30th June, 1864, will not be less than the amount fixed upon for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, viz, \$180,000, provided the government intends to make the Indian service a success in California. But as soon as I can obtain an estimate from the several supervisors under my superintendence I will forward the same in due time, that you can have the benefit thereof.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEO. M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, Northern District California.

Hon. WM. P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 63.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Northern District of California, December 31, 1861.

SIR: I very deeply regret at the close of this year that I am compelled to chronicle the sad tidings to your department of the entire loss of the Klamath Indian reservation, or, rather, the loss of *everything* that was on it, consisting of wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes, carrots, peas, beans, &c., &c., caused by the recent unparalleled freshet in that part of the State.

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The aggregate amount of grain and vegetables housed on said reservation this fall was nearly ten thousand bushels, all of which is swept into the ocean, and about two thousand Indians are thus rendered entirely destitute of the means of support through the winter. Several hundred Indians have recently been removed to said reservation from the Humboldt country, whose Indian disturbances have been so much complained of.

The amount of loss sustained by this overflow can as well be ascertained by reference to the property returns in your department as otherwise, consisting principally of a large quantity of fencing and buildings, containing all the supplies raised upon the farms the past season, farming tools, and seed grain newly supplied. The total loss on the Klamath reservation will not fall short of from thirty to forty thousand dollars; and now I must take the responsibility of purchasing fresh supplies for 2,200 Indians at that place, or they will either perish for lack of food or return to their old haunts, and renew a war (perhaps to their own extermination) by the recommencement of depredations on the settlers' stock, which they *must do from necessity or die*.

In connexion with this sad affair I must add another. Towards the last of September I contracted for about 350 or 400 head of tame American cattle for the use of the Indians in the Mendocino and Round Valley or *Nome Cult* reservations, and in November I started one-half of them to the former and the remainder to the latter. Those going to Mendocino were stopped by high water, and those to Round valley were overtaken on the top of the mountain in a most terrific snow-storm. The men in charge became justly alarmed for their own safety and fled to the valley, leaving the cattle, which it was impossible to control; about fifty, I am informed, thus perished in the storm.

During the past fall months I have succeeded in collecting on the reservations at least one thousand additional Indians, and in about equal numbers on each, viz: Mendocino, Round Valley, and the Klamath, numbering now as follows: Round Valley, 2,000; Mendocino, 1,600 or 1,700; and Klamath, 2,200, and about 300 in the vicinity of and on Nome Lackee reservation.

From the latter I have removed all the animals and other movable property to Round Valley or Nome Cult, and have just discharged the supervisor and other employes, leaving the building and the few scattered Indians in the watchful care of one man alone.

My reasons for abandoning Nome Lackee were fully explained in my report of July last, since which time my views have been more fully confirmed in the propriety of so doing.

Again: I beg leave to call immediate attention to the great importance of providing ways and means of paying the settlers on the Nome Cult a fair valuation for their farms and improvements, and remove them at once entirely out of the valley.

Since my last report several persons have entered what they are pleased to call swamps and overflowed lands on this reservation, and have thus taken possession of, and even purchased, some five hundred acres of the best land (within our inclosure) under cover of the law granting to the States the swamped and overflowed lands. Now these settlers are becoming more numerous every year, and are already exceedingly annoying, both to the employe and the Indians. A liquor establishment is kept in said valley, at which place the troublesome white men become intoxicated, then come on the farms, threatening the employes, and abusing the Indians, and recently they massacred one hundred and eight Indians in that vicinity, under the plea that they or some others had stolen and killed some of their hogs and cattle, and on two other occasions, within the last two years, several other Indians have been murdered in the most inhuman and cold-blooded manner. Counsel, the best I can find to consult, say that we cannot compel these men to abandon this valley, from the fact, that one of my predecessors invited and encouraged settlements in said valley when he was superin-

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tending agent of Indian affairs. Of this I know nothing, except through information of others, but one thing is certain, that a great number of cattle are being brought into this valley by the settlers, and are devouring the grass upon which the government animals have to subsist; that our fences are thrown open in a clandestine manner, and thus the crops are constantly exposed to destruction.

I state the above facts to give additional weight in respectfully urging the necessity, without any longer delay, of providing means to pay for, and a commission to fix upon, the valuation of their improvements, so as to immediately remove them from the valley; and in connexion with this, and enlargement of said reservation, as suggested in my July report, which will secure to the Indians their fisheries and a hunting-ground, all of which is wholly unfit for cultivation as settlements for white people, but well adapted for the purpose needed. The moneys arising from the sale of the Nome Lakee reservation would go far towards paying for the whole of the farms and improvements on the Nome Cult reserve, and without a large sum of money to fence up the Nome Lakee it can never be worth anything hereafter as a reservation, which is now run over with the stock of the surrounding country and becoming thickly settled.

In the month of October last I apprehended three kidnappers, about fourteen miles from the city of Marysville, who had nine Indian children, from three to ten years of age, which they had taken from Eel river, in Humboldt county. One of the three was discharged on a writ of *habeas corpus*, upon the testimony of the other two, who stated that "he was not interested in the matter of taking the children;" after his discharge the two made an effort to get clear by introducing the third one as a witness, who testified that "it was an act of charity on the part of the two to hunt up the children and then provide homes for them, because their parents had been killed, and the children would have perished with hunger." My counsel inquired "how he knew their parents had been killed?" "because," said he, "I killed some of them myself." Suffice it to say, I found good homes for the children, who are now doing well, and their kidnappers each were placed under five hundred dollars bonds to appear and answer.

The fact is, kidnaping Indians has become quite a business of profit, and I have no doubt is at the foundation of the so-called Indian wars. To counteract this unholy traffic in human blood and souls, I have appointed a number of special agents in the country through which the kidnappers pass when carrying the Indians to market in the settlements, with instructions to watch for them, and thus, I think, that a temporary check has been put to their commerce.

I shall make an effort this winter, in a memorial to the State legislature, to have the law repealed authorizing the indenturing of Indians, under cover of which all this trouble exists.

I have just completed a division of the Indian goods which you shipped from New York, with which I shall immediately proceed, in person, and distribute that portion I have in my charge among the Indians on the several reservations within my superintendence. My colleague and myself made an equal division of the goods, each claiming to have the largest number of Indians to provide for. But this matter will, in due time, be settled by the number of Indians which will be brought upon the reservations, and the amount of produce our respective returns will show. In the meantime I entertain a hope that it will beget a rivalry between each superintending agent by trying to excel in productions of crops from year to year. And in this, if we do our duty faithfully, it will evidence itself very soon in the improvement of the Indians throughout the State.

It will be seen now that, with the recent increase of over one thousand Indians by removal, there is an aggregate of about six thousand Indians on all the reservations, full as many as there are means to support through the winter, and until another harvest shall arrive. I am most reluctantly compelled, therefore, to refuse to increase the number for the present, although I have almost daily applications to do so urged in the strongest manner, except I am placed in additional

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funds for that purpose. There are about six or seven thousand more Indians who should be removed and immediately provided for, as a security against and prevention of further Indian wars and troubles, which must otherwise result from their starving condition.

Allow me again to urge the *imperative necessity* of providing the superintending agent with means to employ a *clerk*. It cannot be otherwise than that he must neglect many of the important interests and duties connected with the Indian service without such provision is made. He cannot be in his office and attend to answering the numerous correspondents he has on official business, and at the same time personally direct and superintend the affairs on the several reservations, where his presence is constantly necessary. Many communications of much interest have to be passed by for lack of such needed assistance.

I am happy to say that the health and general condition of the Indians on all the reservations has greatly improved within the last few months. This is attributable in the main to the introduction of employes on the reservations who bring their wives along with them, whom I employ in teaching the female Indians how to cut and make up their own clothing, and also instruct them in many other arts of domestic economy. Eight of my employes have their wives on the reservations, and the moral effect of this policy is acknowledged by all to be salutary. Only one of the old employes have I retained. He is an excellent man, and has given proof of his fitness for the position he has.

I am fully convinced of the great impropriety and evil of such frequent changes in officers and employes. The Indians are no politicians, and they cannot conceive why it is that the good, industrious, sober, and virtuous are so frequently exchanged for those of the opposite character.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the present condition of Indian affairs, taking into consideration the loss on the Klamath reservation, (which less than from thirty to forty thousand dollars will not make good,) the restocking of each reservation with more farming tools, work animals, and a sufficiency of cattle for beef, milk, &c., together with two suits of clothes for each Indian per annum, will demand *not less* than the sum of *one hundred and eighty thousand dollars per annum alone* for the northern district; and with that sum of money per annum there will then, and then only, be a security against wars and difficulties in the future, and there never was anything more truthful than the saying, "It is cheaper to feed the Indians than to fight them."

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEO. M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, N. Dist. Cal.

Hon. WM. P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
