

M 56 1/2 / 1859
California M. 56

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San Francisco

Sept 4th / 59

Transmits his report
on the condition of
Indian Affairs in his
Superc^y, together with
inventories of the pub-
lic property remain-
ing on the different
Indian Reservations

Rec^d Sept 28th / 59

Report to Secretary of
Interior Dec 14th / 1859

File ✓
Com.

Office Sup. Ind. Affairs.
San Francisco Cal.
September 4th 1859.

Hon A. B. Greenwood
Commissioner of Ind. Affairs.
Sir;

As soon as practicable after my arrival in this State, I proceeded in conformity to my instructions from the Department of the 4th of April, to visit the different Indian Reservations of course, connected with this Superintendency, for the purpose of examining into their present condition, and of receiving from Col. T. J. Henley the public property intrusted to him as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California.

I have now the honor to report the following, as the result of my investigation.

Stone Lakee.

This has generally been considered the most prominent Reservation. It is situated on the edge of the foot hills, into which the Coast range breaks, descending into the Sacramento Valley. It is said to contain, Twenty five thousand Acres, and presents one of the finest ranges for Stock and the production of all kinds of small grain, to be found in the State. The country is gently undulating - from the Spur of the Coast range to where it strikes the Sacramento Valley, a distance of twelve miles. The hills are covered with a luxuriant growth of wild oats, indicating the character of the soil, and any attempt at cultivation is rewarded by an abundant harvest.

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In consequence of the scarcity of water, but little success is met with in the cultivation of Vegetables, Melons &c, so much desired as our article of Indian food.

There has been cultivated during the past season, about Eight hundred Acres, mostly in small grain, out of which One hundred and fifty acres of wheat was almost totally destroyed by smut. These Eight hundred Acres are divided into small farms, some distance apart, but all within the circumference of Seven miles; the richest bottoms only being selected for cultivation, causing this separation.

In consequence of the scarcity of timber in the immediate vicinity, the nearest being found in the Coast range, twelve miles distant, but little fencing has been done, so that these districts of cultivated land are at all times open to the ravages of cattle, being protected only by the vigilance of those persons in whose immediate charge they are. However much this is to be regretted, and notwithstanding the unprotected appearance it gives the farms, it is, I think in a great measure unavoidable, as the procuring of timber from the Mountains would entail an expense which the necessities of the Reservation will not warrant.

The grain, Wheat, Barley, & Rye were being harvested during my visit. But an approximate estimate of its yield could be made. The growth appeared to be luxuriant, and it was estimated that it would be Fifteen thousand -

bushels. Should the crop reach this amount, the result will be gratifying in as much as it together with the remainder of the last harvest will materially lessen the expense of the Reservation during the coming year.

A large garden has also been attempted; some labor has been expended upon it, but with little success! A few fruit trees & vegetables of but little value, being all that is left to testify to the efforts of a gardener.

As will be seen on the accompanying Inventory of property, a number of houses have been built. Many of these are small wooden structures of but small value, though answering the purposes for which they were intended. Those in the neighborhood of Head quarters are substantially built, mostly of Adoke, and serve as comfortable residences for the employees.

The farming improvements, Boars, Cows &c, are of that durable character usually used on the frontier. These buildings are located on different parts of the reserve, mostly adjacent to the farms. There is also on this Reservation a band of California mares with which a number of colts, and a few mule colts are running. I have ordered them to be sold under my general instructions, as they are of but small value to the government, and a source of some expense. I am confident that the raising of stock on these Reservations will never prove profitable, unless it is entirely separated from every other interest;

and held to a strict and particular accountability by itself.

I was unable to ascertain the exact number of stock cattle belonging to this Reservation. The Agent estimates them (after deducting the number that have been killed for food) to be about One hundred and twenty five head. But few of these were to be seen, the lateness of the season compelling them to stray and scatter over a large tract of country in search of water. It was represented as being impossible to get an accurate account of them, excepting at a general rode of all the cattle in the neighborhood, which at that season of the year was impracticable on account of the extreme heat of the weather.

The total number of Indians estimated to belong on this Reservation is One thousand. Many of these visit the reserve only at certain periods of the year; when they remain for a while, resorting again to the hills as the season for wild fruit approaches. The number present during my visit was upwards of Six hundred, the half of whom were engaged in the labors of the field. A number of these people appeared intelligent and industrious, understanding well and apparently appreciating the cultivation of the soil, and the management of the various machines used in harvesting. They appeared well disposed and contented, performing their duties with spirit and alacrity.

As this Reservation is the only one whose boundaries have been definitely fixed by Survey, it has assumed a position, that others can not take. It is intirely free from the intrusion of settlers, and recognized by the community as a point established by the government as a Reservation.

In location I look upon it as being in many respects disadvantageous. Situated in the center of one of the most thriving Counties in the State, the surrounding country is being rapidly settled, and before long the entire reserve will be pressed in upon all sides by a busy population.

The interests of a farming community are never identical with those of an Indian farm, and the proximity of the whites - always leads to disaffection among the Indians. Isolation from these influences, which is a great consideration in the selection of an Indian Reservation, is here out the question. Apart from this Stone Lakee possesses but few attractions to other Indians than those, whose immediate home it has ~~never~~ been; game of every kind is scarce; it possesses no fishery, and the usual crop of Acorns so eagerly sought by the Indians is not to be found here; hence I consider that while the county of Behama is deprived of one of its finest tracts of land, an inadequate advantage ~~accrues~~ to the government.

Nome Cult.

This valley lies in the Coast range, and is about sixty miles South West of Nome Lake. - The trail to it leads directly over an elevated portion of the coast range, which divides the waters of the River from those of the Sacramento. The estimated elevation of this ridge is four thousand feet, and at this late season of the year snow was laying in deep drifts upon its northern face. - The trail from Nome Lake is a good one, and is practicable for pack trains, during a large portion of the year, wood, water, and grass being found in abundance.

The valley runs South West, and South East, and contains about twenty thousand acres. An Indian farm was established in the northern portion of it by Colonel. S. J. Henley - late Superintendent some time in the year 1856. It has been conducted with some success, and contrasts now favorably with Nome Lake. It contains about four thousand acres, a large portion of which is enclosed by a substantial Oak rail fence; all of which under the superintendency of white employees, has been accomplished by Indian labor.

Several comfortable log houses have been erected at the head quarters and surrounded by an Oak palisade. others of a less costly character have been built in convenient parts of the farm. A large number of small log huts have also been put up for the use

of the Indians, which I am told they oc-
-cupy during the winter months.

About three hundred acres have been cul-
-tivated this season, two hundred of which
was planted in small grain, one hundred
in corn, and the remainder in Vegetables.

The crops were being harvested during my
visit and promised from their appearance
to yield abundantly, excepting, one hundred
acres of wheat, which was destroyed by smut.
Vegetables of every variety grow here with
great luxuriance and some of a superior
quality can be raised. During the Spring
and Summer a large portion of this valley is
covered with a rich growth of clover.

Wild potatoes and other nutritious roots
much desired by Indians, are to be found
in large quantities.

Oak timber of a superior
size and quantity abounds here, producing
a crop of acorns which contributes large-
-ly to the support of Indians. Difficulties -
have arisen, between the settlers and the In-
-dians, on account of this source of subsistence
being somewhat cut off, from the numerous
bands of cattle, ranging in the range, by
the Indian harvest.

Water can be obtained
by digging twelve or fifteen feet in ^{any} portion
of the valley, and quite a number of living
springs are scattered over its face.

The season

of vegetation is later in this region, than in the Sacramento valley by about one month.

Cut off from the settlements and inclosed upon all sides by Mountains, possessing every quality in the soil for the successful cultivation of a farm - And containing an abundance of those wild products so desired by Indians, I know of no place within this State so well fitted for an Indian Reservation as it. It bounded on one side by Col River, and on the others by the Mountain shed, this Reservation would possess advantages rarely to be found.

In order however that the Reservation system should be carried on with a prospect of success in this region, I deem it essential that the entire valley should be occupied by it, and that the settlers now holding claims should be induced to move out of it. I look upon this as absolutely necessary to the successful prosecution of the Reservation system in this place.

A number of cattle belonging to the government are running at large in this valley. I endeavoured to have them collected, but found it impossible, excepting at a rate of compensation, which I did not consider the case warranted. The number is said to be three hundred and fifty. I was enabled to count upwards of three hundred of them, but declined to receive them until they were all collected and properly branded with

a uniform mark. At present a large number of them have the mark of their original owner, and in general they are so much mixed up with those belonging to settlers that I was convinced a correct account could not be taken, excepting at General Roden.

It is my intention to visit this valley again in company with Co. Henry, later in the fall, when I shall receipt to him, for such as are turned over to me and advertise the same immediately for sale.

Wendocino.

This Reservation extends from Ware Creek to a short distance above the Redator; distance about ten miles, and is three miles wide.

It is particularly well situated for a Reservation, abounding in the natural sources of Indian subsistence. Fish of various kinds abound besides the usual quantity of seeds and edible roots in the vicinity. A Fishery exists in the Stoyo River where a considerable supply of Salmon can be caught every season for the use of the Indians.

Although grain does not thrive in this region, in consequence of the cold sea breezes, vegetables can be cultivated with great success. There has been from four to five hundred Acres cultivated this season, which will probably yield a fair average crop. The greater portion of ^{the} land under cultivation

is of a light sandy character. Farms are established at different points on this Reserve, taking advantage of the best locations. The first is Bald Hill four miles and the second Bedator two miles from Dead Quarters.

At each of these farms small Ranches are established, containing a few families, from whom the necessary working hands are obtained. As a general thing these families appeared well clothed, though they expressed themselves much dissatisfied with their condition:

The total number of Indians residing on this Reservation does not exceed five hundred, although I am convinced a greater number visit the Reserve at certain seasons of the year and by judicious management could be induced to remain permanently.

A number of houses have been built as quarters for the employees. These are of an ordinary, though comfortable character. Those composing the Head Quarters are small though well constructed. The Black Smiths and Carpenters shops, are sufficiently large & commodious and the Barns are superior in character to any I have seen on the Reservation.

The different articles innumerable on my Inventory as farming tools are very much worn and will require replacing before long.

Considering the natural advantages this Reservation possesses, it does not present a thriving appearance. The number of

resident Indians should be increased; a large quantity of land should be cultivated, and more attention paid to the moral and physical condition of the Indians.

I have to report to the Department the existence of a Steam saw mill on this Reservation under the direction of private individuals. It is situated at the mouth of the Stoyo River, about six hundred yards from the Head quarters. The Department is familiar with the particulars attending the erection of this mill. At present I regard it as an obstacle in the way of the future welfare and prosperity of the Indians, subjecting them to the baneful influences of a class of white men, whose interests are in no way identified with theirs, and who have no sympathy for their condition. The utmost effort on the part of the agent in charge of this mill; who seems inclined to support the laws and regulations of the Reserve, can not abate the evil attending this proximity of the whites. Intemperance and disease are among the evils which must inevitably attend these people so long as they are subjected to these influences. Apart from these considerations the operations of logging incroaches upon and injures the Salmon fishery in the Stoyo River, which is one of the natural resources of the place.

A private store for the vending of goods to Indians and employees has been

for some time carried on here, by permission I understand of the late Superintendent. So convinced am I of the unavoidable evils attending all such licences upon Reservations that I shall revoke the permission granted in this instance at once.

With the view of separating the Indian for the time being from the influences referred to, the Agent has been directed to remove them immediately after harvest from the Head Quarters to the neighborhood of the Bedator, leaving only force enough to carry on the earnest business of the place. I was induced to this step from a hope that means may be devised for the removal of these evils.

Bueno.

This agency is situated on the Bueno River a small stream which rises in the Sena Nevada and sinks early in the Summer, shortly after entering the San juaguin plains, but empties into the San juaguin River during the Winter or rainy season.

A farm was established here upon the property of Mr. Vinconhaller some years ago for the support of the Foot Hill Indians, and such other tribes as might be induced to reside in the plains.

If this farm ever did afford the home and protection for which it was established, the period has passed when it can be of the slightest service. Constant

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droughts and failure of the crops from year to year has convinced me of the inutility of any further attempts at its cultivation.

The improvements existing are of little value to the owner of the property and of none to the government. The quantity of land cultivated this year is trifling and the crops of little value. The great scarcity of water renders every effort at farming on the part of the Indians abortive, and irrigation is attended with great labor and expense. As appears on the Inventory, the amount of public property on this is small and is much worn. Ten thousands pound of wheat is all that remains on the Reserve for the present year. For these reasons, and the fact that the number of Indians upon it does not warrant its support. I think it expedient to incur no further expense upon this farm, and shall take the necessary steps to abandon it as soon as possible.

Kings River.

This farm is attached to the Guend Agency and is in charge of Mr. Wm. Campbell, who claims the property. I consider that the rent asked for this place does not authorize its occupation for a longer period than possible. It is situated on the right bank of Kings River, contains some good soil and is well watered. There is an abundance of timber upon it.

for fencing purposes and in other respects possess advantages, but is too closely surrounded by settlers to answer the purposes of an Indian Agency.

The Indians living here belong to the valley adjacent and to Kings River. They are few in number and would be contented to remain if secure - from the attacks of a large number of persons in the neighborhood, who are opposed to their doing so.

About two hundred Acres have been cultivated by the Indians; mostly in Wheat and Barley. Some corn has been raised for which the soil is well adapted but has been mostly destroyed by animals running at large.

The improvements consist of a well built brick house, the residence of the owner Mr. Campbell and a substantial barn and out houses.

The quantity of grain on hand from this years crop is about Eight hundred bushels of Wheat and one thousand bushels of Barley - together with four or five tons of Hay. The grain is well stored and the Hay secured in stacks.

The amount of public property used here in farming is small and like that at the Glenn much worn.

Bijon.

This Reservation is situated at the extreme Southern base of the Sierra Nevada where they join the coast range of Mountains.

In consequence of the great scarcity of

water but little has been accomplished here for several years past.

The number of Indians estimated to belong to this Reserve is Six Hundred. I visited most of the Ranchos and saw perhaps two hundred souls. Many of these are residents of the locality known as the Sijon tribe; most of the labor is performed by them, having in years past acquired some knowledge of farming by a residence on the Missions. Some of the principal chiefs have small farms allotted to them, which they cultivate for their own exclusive benefit. The farming for the general support of the Indians has not been successful for the reasons cited.

There is collected here a considerable amount of ^{public} property most of which is old and worn out.

The public buildings exclusive of Head quarters, connected with this Agency are situated at intervals over a few miles where there has been some cultivation. Those composing the Head Quarters are well built of adobe and being surrounded by a luxuriant vineyard and orchard containing a variety of fruits such as figs, pomegranates, peaches and Apples present an appearance of comfort and cleanliness hardly to be expected in this region.

A small farm at Gule River has been established in connection with ^{this} Agency. On it some corn has been raised this season and considerable improvement made. The number

of Indians collected here is about three hundred and this number can be increased. It has always been the home of a very considerable tribe who are contented and willing to remain, but the country is rapidly being settled and public sentiment is against their doing so.

The land upon which this farm is located belongs to a private citizen with whom I have made arrangements for the present, for its continued occupation, until a more suitable home can be provided for these Indians.

I am convinced from recent reports that the country in the vicinity of Ogus River is well adapted for an Indian Reservation. Should it be reserved by the government for Indian purposes, as I am informed it is contemplated, its location indicates it to be a suitable place for the Gwano, Kings River, and Gule River, Indians. There they would be removed from influences that are now rapidly destroying them, and the inhabitants of the country, they now live in would be relieved from a source of great complaint by their removal there. In this event I would suggest the abandonment of the Gwano, Kings River, Gule River and the Dejon Indian Reservation, leaving only a sub-agent to visit those few bands of Indians remaining in the valleys, administering to their immediate ^{wants} and to offer inducements to

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them to seek an asylum at Ouess River Res-
-ervation. Should this policy be pursued, I
- am confident it would be but a short time
before these valleys would entirely free from
- their presence.

The number of Indians residing
- in the vicinity of San Diego is very con-
- siderable. I am informed that they are well
disposed and support themselves in many
instances by the cultivation of small patches
of land. I deemed it essential that a spec-
- ial agent should frequently visit them, pre-
- serving friendly relations with them by the
distributions of seeds and agricultural im-
- plements, until such a time as the government
- may be enabled to procure a suitable loca-
- tion for a small farm for their use, which
I consider essential to the welfare of the In-
- dians and to the interests of the community
among whom they live.

Much trouble has
been experienced in this and other parts of
the country by these roving bands of Indians.
Unless a suitable home is provided for them
it is difficult to devise a plan for the rem-
- edy of this evil. Their present condition is
- much to be deplored as they are frequently,
no doubt, induced from want to commit
depredations upon the property of settlers,
which is too frequently punished with an
unrelenting hand.

Difficulties occasioned in

this way in Round Valley and its vicinity, are at present particularly to be lamented. The killing of Indians, is a daily occurrence there. Under the circumstances it is difficult to ascertain the actual cause of complaint. The Indians are accused of killing cattle and other stock belonging to settlers, but the evidence of it produced, are not in my opinion sufficient to substantiate the charge. Efforts are being constantly made to quiet the existing feeling against these miserable people, and to gather them upon the Reservations where they shall be protected; but with little success. If some means be not speedily devised, by which the unauthorized expeditions that are constantly out in search of them, can be restrained they will soon be exterminated.

I beg respectfully to call your attention to the necessity of having the Indian Reservations in this State officially Surveyed. Great trouble has been experienced heretofore, by the Agents in holding exclusive possession of the lands designated by the government for Indian purposes, for the want of definitely fixed boundaries.

I request that the limited time allotted me for the accomplishment of this duty precluded the possibility of my visiting those portions of this Superintendency North of Mendocino and South of the Tikon. Recent reports from D. B. Paul Esq, Agent at the Klamath, convinces me however that his Reservation

is in a prosperous condition - As it is my intention to visit this Reservation immediately I shall make it subject of a Special report.

Great effort has been made to ascertain the amount of indebtedness of the Reservations as required in my instructions, but as yet the returns of the different Agents have not been completed. I hope however to be able to report in full upon this subject before long.

The embarrassed condition of this Superintendency suggests many subjects that should be laid before the Department, but which I am compelled to defer, on account of the limited time allowed me for the preparation of this Report.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obedt Servt
J. V. McDuffie
Sup, Ind Affairs
for California.