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INDIAN AFFAIRS. manifestations have increased the

Recent manifestations have increased the anxiety of our citizens relative to Indian affairs, and it is the belief of those well informed in such matters, that it behooves the Federal Government to act with great circumspection, or it will be precipitated into Indian difficulties as formidable as those in Oregon.

Not only have our substantial citizens been disquieted by rumors of impolitic change in our Indian policy—not only have they deprecated a threatened removal of the Sebastian Reserve, but we are informed that the subject has attracted the attention of the Indians themselves, has been talked of over their council-fires in the Tulare Valley, debated in the Rancherias, scattered along the San Bernardino, San Gorgonia and San Jacinto mountains. Upon the Reserve itself, this subject has excited the alarm of the long-haired Indians of the Tulare, and we understand that deputations have called upon the agents of the Government for an explanation, whether the solemn promises made by Lieutenant Beale on behalf of the Government, and reiterated by Col. Henley, that the Tejon was designated as a permanent home for them, were to be violated and disregarded like the treaties of Colo. Barbour, Wozencraft and McKee.

Those of our readers, who were resident in this county at the time of Antonio Garru's insurrection, will recollect that it was preceded by complaints from the Indians that the county of San Diego was collecting taxes from them.

Several months ago, we understand that the same complaint was made by the Indians, whether well founded or not we do not know; and following upon that we hear that the Indians in San Diego county are exhibiting signs of restlessness. The matter is susceptible of ready explanation; as the exaction of taxes ceased about the time of the establishment of the Sebastian Reserve, the Indians have ascribed their exemption since to the influence of that establishment; and now, following a report of the intended removal of that Reserve, comes a renewed demand for taxes, so that the two movements seem some way to be connected together. We, of course, are well aware how unfounded is this supposed connection, but the belief in it amongst the Indians establishes the fact that the Government should be very prudent in not affording any evidence to favor it.

Our cotemporary, the *Southern Californian*, has for a long time been engaged in the work of annihilating Col. Henley, the Sebastian Reserve, and the Reserve system generally. What space could be spared from abusing our naturalized citizens, furnishing the history of swimming horses

and sham duels, and the achievements of Mr. Hunt, the Common Councilman elect, has been devoted to attacking a system inaugurated by its friend, Lieut. Beale, and approved by every old and responsible settler, amongst whom we have only to mention our Senator elect, B. D. Wilson, Esq., to insure that respect for the policy, which his high character, unblemished reputation and large experience in Indian affairs, commands for himself, and not only thus inaugurated and thus approved, but actually in the full tide of successful operation, giving and bestowing upon us the thousand blessings of peace and security.

A machine constructed like the *Southern Cali-*

fornian and possessed only of the power of ejecting abuse and discoloring truth, a machine which draws its sustenance from a country, against whose interests and property it would recklessly arm the wild savage, whose unprotected citizens it would expose to Indian butchery, for the only gratification of opposing an able and fearless public officer like Col. Henley, and attacking an Administration, like the present, has merited and has obtained the disapprobation of every enlightened inhabitant of the South. That it should attack the present Superintendent is a matter that can be understood from its Know Nothing and Anti-Democratic sympathies, that it should speak of his management and criticise it, is the legitimate function of a free and independent opposition press; but that it should advocate a policy that would jeopardise the immense herds of cattle in this county, worth about two millions of dollars, would expose our frontier ranches and settlements to destruction, that would depreciate our real estate and light the torch of a fierce Indian war, is beyond the comprehension of those men who look to their country's good as a rule of action.

For ourselves we repeat what we have already said, that there is not a responsible and intelligent citizen in the six Southern counties, who does not rejoice in our peaceful relations with the Indians, in our neighborhood and who would not characterize that man or public officer, who menaced their continuance by rash changes or experiments, as the wanton and malicious enemy of the whole South.

We confidently believe that our prosperity, as far as our Indian policy can affect it, is connected with the preservation of the Reserve system, and the continuance of the Sebastian Reserve where it now is; and we cannot believe that any personal feeling or local influence can induce the Government to put in peril so much real prosperity and material progress, as is exhibited by the Southern counties, for the purpose of hazarding new experiments.

We regret to learn, just as we go to press, that the *Southern Californian* has suspended publication upon account of financial embarrassments. Though we have differed with its Editors about almost everything and everybody, still we have admired their vivacity and humor. We hope yet that arrangements will be made whereby they