

Los Angeles Star, Volume 5, Number 28, 24 November 1855 — THE SEBASTIAN INDIAN RttSERVE. j1 [ARTICLE]

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THE SEBASTIAN INDIAN RESERVE. We are glad to perceive that the people of the South are at last awakening to the importance of a reasonable and intelligent Indian policy. An expression of sentiment has been elicited in favor of the Reserve system that is nearly unanimous; and if the wishes of the people are to have any influence upon Government, that system must necessarily be continued without change. Not only are the citizens of this county deeply impressed with the necessity of adhering to the present policy, and of maintaining the Sebastian Reserve in its present location,—not only are they prepared to characterize any abandonment of either as an aggression upon their rights, for which, to the extent of their ability, a rigid responsibility will be exacted, but the people of Santa Barbara county express in emphatic terms similar opinions and sentiments.

The *Santa Barbara Gazette* of the 15th instant contains a long article replete with facts establishing the beneficial effects of the Sebastian Indian Reserve. It estimates the loss of the six southern counties for the three years preceding 1853 from Indian depredations, at the aggregate sum of six hundred thousand dollars. This estimate is moderate, and does not include the three hundred thousand dollars expended by the State in suppressing Indian hostilities.

The *Gazette* then goes on to show that these losses ceased in 1853, and then argues that this cessation is attributable to the influence and commanding position of the Sebastian Reserve, and then proceeds to the description and advantages of its location, as follows:

The position of that Reserve is such as to completely protect this and San Luis Obispo county. Situate right in the mouth of the various passes through which the hostile Indians were accustomed to descend upon our exposed plains and valleys, and carry off their rich plunder, it has operated as an effectual check to their incursions.

It is impossible to imagine a more commanding position, and at the same time, one more isolated from the white settlements. Neither on the side of this county, nor San Luis Obispo, nor Los Angeles, can any white settlements press upon it, owing to the broken, mountainous country surrounding it, while we are informed that on the Tulare county side a sandy desert affords a complete protection from encroachment.

The *Gazette* then expresses the views of the people of Santa Barbara county upon hearing of the alleged intention of Government to remove this Reserve:

Entertaining these views, the surprise and indignation of our people may be imagined when a report reached them that the Government was considering the question of the removal of the Sebastian Reserve from the Tejon. If, for some unknown offence, it is the wish of the Government to chastise the Southern counties of California; if, for some inscrutable purpose, it should be the policy of the Administration to check our prosperity, to break up our ranchos, to expose the lives of our frontier settlers, then let them remove this Reservation, and thus, by breaking the most solemn pledges given to the Indians that it was to be permanently established for their benefit, destroy their confidence in the Government, and give to their discontent a substantial evidence of its justice. In order that they may recommence their work of robbery and murder.

There may exist among us some difference of opinion about the present good or bad management of this Reserve, but we have yet to learn that there is a single resident of this county that does not regard the preservation of this Reserve, in its present location, and the Indian policy that dictated its establishment, as not only important, but essential, to our peace and prosperity.

We only reiterate the opinions of those more extensively acquainted than we are with the Indians of this section of the State, when we express our conviction, that the removal of the Sebastian Indian Reserve will be followed by an extensive Indian war, which will cost the Government hundreds of thousands of dollars, and which will destroy more than a million of property for us in the South, and fatally check our present prosperity.

We cordially endorse these views, and have no hesitation in asserting that they are almost universally entertained in this and the other Southern counties.

Among the passengers by the *Republic*, we noticed the arrival of Col. T. J. Henley, the energetic Superintendent of Indian Affairs for our State.— We have no doubt but that he will be fully satisfied of the deep interest our citizens take in Indian affairs, and we cannot but believe that the unanimous sentiment of our people will induce him to persist in our Indian policy which is now in successful operation.

MORE RAIN.—On Thursday morning we had a smart rain, accompanied with very heavy thunder and lightning; one more such will put the ground in good condition for the agriculturalist, and cover our hills and valleys with that beautiful green carpet so universally desired.

See notice of Dr. Osburn's house to let in another column.

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